

Arafat: Shamir authorised talks

ROME (R) — Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was quoted Sunday as saying Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir authorised direct talks between his government and the PLO in the last few days. Arafat told the Rome newspaper *Il Messaggero* that PLO leaders had met an unnamed senior member of Shamir's Likud party in Vienna and that Shamir himself had had indirect contact with the PLO. "There has been a meeting... in Vienna between a member of the PLO's Executive Committee and a member of Likud's central committee," Arafat said in an interview to be published Monday. Arafat also showed *Il Messaggero* correspondent Eric Salerno a transcript of what he said was a recent meeting between Shamir and Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories. He said the meeting had been fully sanctioned by the PLO. Ten days ago Israel's Deputy Finance Minister Yosef Beilin said indirect talks had gone on for two months through U.S. intermediaries. However, no Israeli official has ever suggested there had been direct contact with the PLO. Arafat gave no details of the Vienna meeting but said Shamir was clearly trying to open up dialogue with the PLO.

Jordan Times

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Angola accepts ceasefire proposals

LUANDA (AP) — The Angolan government has accepted proposals by President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire for monitoring a ceasefire in its 14-year civil war against U.S.-backed UNITA rebels, according to an official statement Sunday. But peace talks mediated by Mobutu in the Zairean capital of Kinshasa were suspended Saturday when the UNITA delegation requested a week in which to consult with its leadership. Talks are due to restart July 31. The government did not release details of Mobutu's proposals, but the Zairean leader said last week that part of his monitoring plan included the installation of a "hot-line" radio link between Luanda, Kinshasa and the guerrillas' southern Angolan bush headquarters of Jamba. Angolan armed forces chief Antonio dos Santos Franca, who headed the government delegation in Kinshasa, was quoted by the state news media Sunday as saying the UNITA negotiators agreed with some of Mobutu's proposals but wanted to discuss other ideas that were not made public.

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Israeli cabinet reaffirms election plan, averts crisis

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli cabinet reaffirmed Sunday its plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, ending an 18-day political crisis which threatened to topple the coalition government.

The 21-4 vote backed the proposal for a poll in the occupied territories "without any changes or alterations" and committed ministers to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's plan.

The reaffirmation of the initiative ignored a set of headline conditions that Shamir's own right-wing Likud bloc had tried to attach to the plan.

The statement was worked out as a compromise with Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, head of the Labour Party, which had threatened to withdraw from the Likud-led coalition cabinet over the tough conditions.

Industry Minister Ariel Sharon of Likud, who had pushed the tougher stance to Likud approval, was among voting against the compromise.

Another dissenter was Science Minister Ezer Weizman of Labour, who criticised the plan for not urging peace talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Emerging from the four-hour cabinet session, Peres said the decision was something "we can live with," meaning an effective end to threats that his party would leave the government.

"If the peace initiative is the only guiding line of the government, we shall stay in the government," Peres added in remarks to reporters. "Today we clarified here is just one guideline."

Labour's threat to topple Israel's eight-month-old government came July 12, a week after he had made demands were taken

ed onto the plan at a Likud central committee meeting.

Despite Peres' stand, Labour spokeswoman Michal Cohen said the cabinet vote could not cancel a meeting of Labour's central committee scheduled Aug. 8 to debate leaving the government. But Cohen, interviewed by telephone, predicted the motion would fail.

Two other Likud ministers who led the original revolt against the elections plan — Yitzhak Modai and David Levy — voted against the compromise with Labour.

Cabinet sources said Modai protested that a second vote on the same initiative was unprecedented.

Sharon, who traded insults with Shamir last week, avoided reporters after the cabinet meeting and his spokesman said he had no comment on events.

Levy told reporters Likud ministers were still bound by the constraints adopted by the party central committee.

"The decisions of the Likud are the vessel, the commitment that bind every one of us," he said.

Peres said he believed elections could take place within a year if Palestinians were willing to negotiate an agreement on the plan.

"I am telling the Palestinians to come and negotiate. We recognise your legitimate rights, your political rights. We shall sit like equals, we shall deal directly and let's start the process," Peres said.

The toughest of the Likud conditions attached to the plan was delaying any elections until the 19-month Palestinian uprising is ended.

Another Likud condition left out of Sunday's decision was one

that ruled out voting eligibility for the 140,000 Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem.

After Sunday's meeting, Weizman, a former defence minister and air force pilot, told reporters: "The PLO is an element without which nothing will move."

Israel Radio reported Weizman said in the closed-door session, "If we want peace, we have to talk to the PLO."

Peres, speaking on the PLO question, said "I think that by not speaking to the PLO we brought the PLO to peace. If we had recognised the PLO 10 years ago it would not have progressed."

"The Palestinians now have to take another step forward, to switch from making decisions by arms to making decisions by ballot," Peres added.

The cabinet also voted Sunday to add 150 million shekels (\$75 million) to the budget for battling the uprising.

Political sources said Shamir would now step up efforts to find Palestinian partners for the plan, but leading Palestinians said it remained as unacceptable as when the government first adopted it two months ago.

"We accepted the idea of elections with certain conditions, which are still not met by the Israeli plan," said Ramallah lawyer Jamil Tarifi, an influential nationalist seen by Israeli officials as a potential candidate in the elections.

Despite having rescued his government and saved the plan, Shamir could still face trouble in his party from the rebel ministers.

Sharon, a former defence minister who led Israel's 1982 Lebanon invasion, was a prime mover of the Likud group demanding constraints.



A Palestinian girl goes to school under the watchful eyes of Israeli soldiers. About 200,000 Palestinian children returned to schools in the West Bank Saturday after a prolonged closure imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities.

Human rights group accuses Israelis of summary execution

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A West bank human rights group said Sunday Israeli forces carried out a "summary, extra-judicial execution" in shooting a 17-year-old Palestinian July 10.

An army statement issued at the time said the youth was wanted by authorities and was killed by "security forces" when he ignored orders to halt and continued to flee.

Law in the Service of Man, a watch group founded by Palestinian lawyers, said armed men in civilian clothing shot Yasser Abu Ghosh in the head from a distance of seven metres during a chase in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

A statement by the group said there was "no attempt to shoot at the legs as per army regulations."

The five-page statement said Abu Ghosh was alive after being shot but was denied medical attention.

"After extensive interviews with eyewitnesses, Law in the Service of Man is convinced the killing of Yasser Abu Ghosh was a case of summary, extra-judicial execution by individuals acting on behalf of the Israeli authorities."

The group said there was a "growing number of deliberate killings" recently but gave no details.

Law in the Service of Man, an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva, Switzerland, said Abu Ghosh had twice evaded Israeli forces who had chased him through the streets of Ramallah.

On July 10, it said, three men got out of a van with blue West Bank license plates at a signal from a man in a cafe who apparently fingered Abu Ghosh.

Abu Ghosh fled with two companions while three pursuers fired pistols in the air as a warning to halt, the report said. However, it said the security men did not identify themselves.

The human rights group said one witness heard five shots and Abu Ghosh's relatives who viewed the body said he was shot once in the left shoulder and two or three times in the head.

The report said a Palestinian doctor saw Abu Ghosh thrown into a jeep and determined he still had a pulse. A lawyer was quoted in the group's report saying he saw the youth brought into a military base moments later but saw no evidence of medical treatment.

Thirteen Palestinians were shot and wounded Saturday in stone-throwing clashes with Israeli troops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

One victim was a 14-year-old girl hit in the chest with a rubber coated metal pellet of the type used by the army, hospital officials said.

In Gaza City, reporters said anti-Palestinian graffiti was seen written on the walls along a main street. "Palestine is Jewish" and "Arabs out" along with stars of David were reportedly scribbled in English, they said.

In the West Bank, police reported an Israeli taxi driver was stabbed three times by two Palestinian passengers who fled on foot in the area of Hebron.

The underground leadership of the uprising issued a new leaflet Sunday calling for escalating the uprising, but warned against unrestrained attacks on collaborators.

It called on the underground "popular committees to be easy in passing verdict and to avoid executions, unless justified by the seriousness of the crime and approved by higher authorities."

The underground leaders reiterated their rejection of Israel's election plan, saying it was only meant to "gain more time and more opportunities to assassinate" the uprising, and forbid any peace meetings between Palestinian notables and Israeli officials.

Regent receives Sudanese message

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday received a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Sudanese leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir. The message was delivered by Sudanese Interior Minister Brigadier Faisal Abu Saleh, who reassured the Regent that the Sudanese people supported the June 30 military coup which overthrew the government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi and brought Bashir to power at the head of a revolutionary council for national salvation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Abu Saleh, who arrived here earlier Sunday voiced confidence that Sudan was capable of surmounting its difficulties with the determination of its people and help from Arab countries.

The Sudanese minister voiced appreciation of Jordan's assistance to his country in overcoming its ordeals posed by natural calamities.

In an interview with Jordan Television, Abu Saleh said the new Sudanese leadership was ready for direct negotiations with the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) without any preconditions towards ending the six-year-old rebellion in the south of the country.

The Regent's meeting with Abu Saleh was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Royal Court Chief Thouqan Al Hindawi, King Hussein's political and special advisors, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Saleh Mas'adeh and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Oqsem as well as the Sudanese ambassador to Jordan.

Abu Saleh, formerly assistant military attache in Cairo, was to spend Sunday night in Amman before leaving for Syria. He is also due to visit North and South Yemen.

Mubarak holds surprise talks with Sudan leader

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held surprise talks with Sudan's new military ruler in Khartoum Sunday amid speculation that Cairo would take a lead in trying to end the six-year guerrilla war in south Sudan.

Arab and Western diplomats said Mubarak, who stopped off enroute to an organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Addis Ababa (see page 8), would assume a high-profile diplomatic offensive aimed at halting the fighting.

They said Mubarak, widely expected to be elected the OAU's new chairman, would draw on his close relations with Ethiopia's rulers to appeal to the rebels to negotiate peace.

Sudan has long accused Ethiopia of aiding the guerrillas of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Egypt was the first country to recognise General Omar Hassan Al Bashir's military junta after the June 30 coup which toppled the civilian government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi.

Mubarak, the first head of state to visit Khartoum since the coup, left for Ethiopia after three hours.

of talks with Bashir which diplomats said provided new evidence of Egypt's support for the junta. He told reporters that he would not hesitate to enter any mediation which would support Sudan in its efforts to achieve national unity.

During Egypt's years of isolation following its 1979 pact with Israel, Cairo played an intense behind-the-scenes role in trying to achieve peace between Mahdi's government and the SPLA.

Mubarak has said his government played a discreet part in negotiations which led to the signing last November of a now-defunct peace accord between the SPLA and Sudan's Democratic Unionist Party, then a member of Mahdi's coalition.

Bashir has scrapped the pact, saying he wants to enter peace talks with the SPLA without preconditions. Diplomats said his decision caused dismay in Cairo which viewed the accord as a good basis for a settlement to the conflict.

Egypt's relations with Mahdi's government were soured when Khartoum accused Cairo of involvement in a foiled coup plot.

Tens of thousands flee Beirut battle

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Forces loyal to army commander Michel Aoun and Syrian-backed Lebanese militiamen continued to trade artillery fire in Beirut Sunday, forcing tens of thousands of residents to huddle in underground shelters or flee to relative safety outside the Lebanese capital.

Shells ripped into the suburbs of Baabda and Yarzeh where the battle-scarred presidential palace and defence ministry of Aoun are located.

At least six people were killed and eight wounded in the six-hour barrage, hospital sources said.

Aoun's gunners retaliated by shelling five villages southeast of Beirut, security sources reported.

The bombardment erupted at dawn, forcing thousands of people to rush to underground shelters after their first peaceful night since the latest artillery blitz on Beirut started Wednesday.

Lebanese Maronite Christian Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Sfeir, speaking at Sunday prayers, urged the rival forces to spare the lives of innocent people and stop indiscriminate shelling of civilians.

"What value is left for Lebanese citizens when they are slaughtered like sheep," Sfeir said.

At least 22 people have been killed in Beirut in five days of bombardments which virtually buried an already battered ceasefire mediated by the Arab League.

Police estimated that the 250,000 Beirutis have fled to safer areas in south, east and north Lebanon since Friday, when fierce barrages of often indiscriminate shelling flared setting apartment blocks on fire.

Police said Sunday that a tank shell hit a house in the east Beirut suburb of Hadath at daybreak, killing two children and their grandfather.

The children's father, Emile, 40, was critically wounded in the head and was in intensive care in hospital, a police spokesman said.

Abi Shahin's wife and his other son Tony, 12, were also wounded.

Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt, who is backed by Syrian troops in his struggle against Aoun, Saturday night held out an olive branch, but said the battle was only just beginning.

Excerpts from his speech at a rally in his Shouf Mountain stronghold were broadcast by his voice of the mountain radio station Sunday.

He accused Aoun of waging a "crusade backed by Israel and the West to invade Muslim areas and set up a Christian Israel in Lebanon. If this is what Christians want, then we're going to do battle."

Junblatt called for the establishment of a "secular, unified state comprising West Beirut, its southern slums, the Shouf, as well as south, east and north Lebanon."

"Let the Christians have their Monte Carlo. We don't want it," Junblatt said. "We want a divorce and I call for total unification with Syria."

Beirut was like a ghost town on either side of the dividing green line. A few sidewalk cafes opened in areas that were not being hit, but only a handful of people risked going out for a coffee.

Thousands of families used brief lulls in the shelling to pack up and leave the ravaged city.

Uno party concedes defeat in elections

OKYO (Agencies) — Japan's long-governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) conceded a major defeat in parliamentary elections Sunday as projections suggested had lost its upper house majority for the first time in more than three decades.

"This is a big defeat," LDP secretary General Ryutaro Hashimoto said in a televised interview. "I am very sorry."

A major LDP setback would increase pressure for a general election and a change of leadership in the scandal-plagued party.

Both the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) and Kyodo News Service said their projections indicated the Liberal Democrats were certain to lose their majority in the House of Councilors, the upper house of Japan's two-chamber parliament. Voters are deciding half of the house's 52 seats in Sunday's balloting.

The LDP is expected to win no more than 36 of the 126 seats at stake in the election, NHK said.

The LDP looked set to win only seven out of 32 seats reported in early counting, while its main opposition Japan Social-

ist Party was expected to win 16 of them.

The LDP had been widely tipped to suffer a stinging setback in the election for half the seats in the upper house due to public anger at a new sales tax and the implication of most of the party's leaders in various scandals.

The party needed to win 54 of the 126 seats being contested in order to preserve its majority in the house.

A serious defeat for the LDP could lead to the resignation of Premier Sosuke Uno and an early general election for the more powerful lower house of parliament, political analysts say.

The early projected results came largely from rural prefectures which traditionally strongly support the conservative LDP, emphasising the high anti-LDP feeling sweeping Japan.

The LDP, in power continuously since 1955, will keep its hold on government through its majority in the more powerful lower house, but analysts say an LDP defeat could cause major delays in parliamentary business.

Political analysts noted that because upper house members are



Takako Doi elected for six years, the outcome of Sunday's vote would have a lasting influence on the Japan of the early 1990s.

"We are very moved," Japan Socialist Party Chairman Takako Doi told reporters. "But at the same time, we are feeling the responsibility. The election result is due to an honest voter feeling that the LDP will damage the people's livelihood."

She said the first thing her party would do in the wake of the election would be to submit a bill to abolish the sales tax, introduced in April, which has been the most volatile issue in the election.

Announcing that parliament would debate the strike Monday, Gorbachev said: "We are talking about something very serious, which affects all of us and is directly linked with the way things are going with restructuring in our country."

Gorbachev said in a television interview there was a need to act as soon as possible to settle the dispute.

It was his second appeal this weekend to coalminers who remained on strike Sunday, while civilians with stolen guns roamed the Black Sea region of Abkhazia, where 20 people have died in ethnic unrest.

Gorbachev and Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov sent a telegram to miners Saturday asking them

Gorbachev appeals to miners; Abkhazia remains tense

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev went on nationwide television Sunday urging striking coalminers for the second time in 24 hours to return to work.

Up to quarter of a million miners in several coalfields across the country have walked out in the worst labour dispute since the early years of communist rule.

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Gorbachev and Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov sent a telegram to miners Saturday asking them

to return to their pits and saying the two-week strike threatened the national economy.

But reports from the coalfields said that despite a return to work at two dozen pits in the Donbass region of the Ukraine, the Soviet Union's largest coal-producing area, tens of thousands of miners remained on strike there.

Continued strikes were also reported from other coalfields, reaching from the Polish border to the Soviet far north, in the worst labour unrest since the early 1920s.

In the first indication that tolerance of the strikes may be wearing thin, the national trade union newspaper *Trud* criticised what it said was lax discipline among the Donbass miners.

Trud said settlement of the strike there had been held up by "two or three dozen" malcontents, adding that inadequate maintenance by the miners endangered both the pits and the coal reserves.

A senior official, meanwhile, likened clashes between Georgians and Abkhazians, who want a separate republic of their own,

to the war in Afghanistan.

Twenty people have died in recent clashes in Abkhazia, and the official TASS news agency said civilians armed with stolen guns were patrolling the area.

Public transport in Abkhazia was at a standstill, with most factories shut down and the Sukhumi railway depot on strike.

Colonel-General Yuri Shatalin, chief of the Soviet Interior Ministry troops on patrol in the region, told a local news conference that in some cases complicity by the local police had allowed civilians to seize 56 automatic weapons, 40 pistols and three light machineguns.

"On July 16 on the bridge in the Ochamchiri district there was a real battle, involving 250 to 300 people from each side. I have not seen anything like it since my service in Afghanistan," the government newspaper *Izvestia* quoted him as saying.

Shatalin said Interior Ministry troops there would take a new, tougher line following the killing of two soldiers in the region, an autonomous area within the Georgian Republic.

Andreotti cabinet sworn in

ROME (Agencies) — Italy's 49th post-war government was sworn in Sunday and new Premier Giulio Andreotti prepared to present his cabinet to parliament for a confidence vote.

Andreotti formed the five-party coalition government Saturday, ending a 65-day political crisis brought on by the resignation of former Premier Ciriaco De Mita.

The coalition is comprised of the same centrist parties that have ruled together for most of the 1980s, and no major changes in policy were foreseen.

The senate is expected to hold its debate on the new government Wednesday or Thursday. The Chamber of Deputies, the lower house, is scheduled to vote on the new government

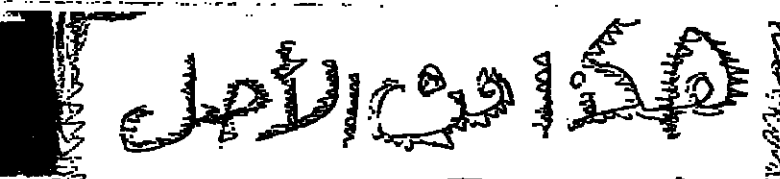
ment by forming a shadow cabinet, or list of opposition "ministers."

"The best way to accept this challenge is to govern in full light," he quipped. The Communists have been kept out of the government for four decades.

Many of the key posts in the new government changed hands, but a majority of the new officials had been ministers before.

Andreotti was premier twice in 1972-73 and three times from 1976 to 1979. He has served in more than a dozen other ministerial posts and has been dubbed "minister for life."

Commentators said the makeup of the new government would help its stability.



Kabul rocket attacks could backfire on rebels

By Malcolm Davidson
Reuters

KABUL — A few rockets fired by guerrillas brought death and destruction to the streets of the Afghan capital this weekend, probably doing much more harm than good to the rebel cause.

Most of the 40 men, women and children killed and the 114 that survived with serious injuries were ordinary Kabulites.

Few probably actively liked the government, one diplomat said. Many probably sympathised with the Mujahedeen's goal of overthrowing the Soviet-backed administration of President Najibullah.

"But if they continue this way the Mujahedeen will absolutely lose," he said. "It will be absolutely counter-productive and lose them support."

Najibullah's government has so far defied many predictions, especially in the West, that it would not last more than a few weeks after Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan in February.

The Mujahedeen dream of capturing the eastern city of Jalalabad as a base for their provisional government has turned to dust, although fierce fighting continues in the region bordering Pakistan.

The government has been able to look on as the unifying glue provided by the Soviet presence has broken down in sometimes murderous infighting among the seven major rebel groups based in Pakistan.

The United States, the main backer of the Mujahedeen in both arms and political support, remains, publicly, fully committed to their cause.

Military experts say there is no sign so far of the new weapons promised to the rebels to help them counter government air

power which has proved decisive to its success.

Diplomats on both sides of the political divide agree the Mujahedeen have lost the initiative and must make military gains before they can even contemplate peace talks.

"I think the game is now political and the military is in support of the political exercise," an Asian ambassador said.

"The Mujahedeen would like a few cards in their hands before they would consider some sort of dialogue."

The government has warned Kabulites to be ready for a long, hot summer of Mujahedeen attacks.

After several months of relative lull, 65 rockets fell on Kabul in one day earlier this month, fired from rugged, dun-coloured mountains that surround the capital.

In terms of casualties, the six rockets that fell on Saturday was the worst attack Kabul had seen, a government spokesman said.

Twenty people were killed instantly when a rocket slammed into a crowded bus station in the city centre or died later from terrible wounds caused by heavy chunks of metal shrapnel.

"As far as casualties and the impact, it was perhaps the worst. It was unprecedented," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said.

A week before, a massive car bomb was detonated by remote control in a shopping street in the same area, killing nine people by official count.

Both the bomb and rockets showed the Mujahedeen's ability to strike at the heart of Kabul where government ministries and the presidential palace are concentrated.

They have also given some

people in the international community the jitters and could jeopardise plans for the United Nations aid agencies to replace more expatriate staff.

Najibullah, a former secret police chief, has won respect for his performance over the past few months, although his departure remains the most basic rebel condition for talks.

"I think Najibullah has grown in stature since the Soviet withdrawal," the Asian ambassador said. "He has led his side effectively and he has come across in his public pronouncements as a man that is reasonable."

He constantly promotes his policy of national reconciliation as the only way to bring peace to Afghanistan after 10 years of civil war.

But there are whispers in Kabul of possible dissent in the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Tamyoan Kamran, a party man and vice-chancellor of Kabul University acknowledged that some activists advocate a return to the socialist ideology the party abandoned in favour of national reconciliation, but he said they were weak.

Standing behind the government is always its chief benefactor, the Soviet Union.

Without the daily arrival of Soviet transport aircraft firing dozens of magnesium flares to ward off Stinger missiles fired by the rebels, the government would be in trouble.

The air bridge saw Najibullah through the winter when snow and the guerrillas frequently cut the road from Kabul across high mountains to the Soviet border.

He still needs it. Although convoys are coming down the Salang Highway, food costs remain high and supplies of fuel are very short.



Street battle ... masked Palestinian women flee from a burning street barricade at Bethlehem as

Israeli troops arrive to put an end to the demonstration

Khalaf warns of resurgence of radicalism in PLO ranks

KUWAIT (AP) — A senior Palestinian official has been quoted as saying that moderates within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) can no longer convince hardliners of the value of peace overtures with Israel.

Salah Khalaf, cofounder of the Fatah movement, warned in an interview with the newspaper Al Qabas of a resurgence of radicalism within Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction, because of "U.S. failure to respond to Palestinian peace inclinations."

"We support the notion that all factions including the hardliners should express themselves, because their viewpoints may be better than ours after our peace initiative failed in dealing with Israel and the United States," he said.

Khalaf is second-in-command of Fatah, which is headed by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Interviewed in Tunis, where the PLO has had its headquarters since its 1982 evacuation from Beirut, he said: "We, in Fatah, are extremely disappointed... we are called upon to reappraise our



Salah Khalaf

previous steps and embark on a new approach with the United States, Israel and all that is taking place in the region."

He said: "We are not sorry for launching the PLO peace initiative because we uncovered the U.S. intentions..."

Khalaf recently met twice with U.S. Ambassador to Tunis Robert Pelletreau, the only American diplomat authorised to make contacts with the PLO since Washington dropped its 13-year ban on dealings with the PLO in

December.

It was after Arafat publicly recognised Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism that the U.S. administration, then under President Ronald Reagan, agreed to start a dialogue with the PLO.

"The PLO has demanded that the level of these talks be upgraded, but there has been no sign that the State Department is willing to do that."

"We have lost ability to convince the hardliners that we have achieved something," Khalaf told Al Qabas.

He slashes out at radicalism in Israel which last week found industry Minister Ariel Sharon calling for the "elimination" of Arafat.

"Why does Israel have the right to have a Sharon and we don't have this right?" he said, defending hardliners who have argued against Arafat's peace overtures, leastly not before Israel agrees to the concept of trading land for peace.

Khalaf said that the PLO leaders would not be intimidated by Sharon's threats, "because they are not new."

Tokyo sees U.S. policy getting better

ABU DHABI (AP) — Tokyo has detected a "subtle change for the better" in U.S. Middle East policy under President George Bush's administration, a senior Japanese official said Sunday.

Ryohei Murata, Japan's vice minister of foreign affairs, was addressing reporters during a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates on his way to Cairo to attend a Japanese ambassadors conference.

The conference, which opens Tuesday, will deal with what role Japan could play in helping develop the Middle East peace process.

He did not elaborate on how U.S. policy has changed.

But Japan is pro-Arab and he was apparently reflecting Tokyo satisfaction with what is seen as more balance in Washington's traditional pro-Israeli tilt following criticism of the Zionist state's actions and the U.S. dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) that began last December.

Murata said the 19-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was "an important move in the voice of liberation."

He said Japan wants to help produce a lasting peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem and pointed to "the modest, but effective role Japan can play as a global economic power."

Stability in the Middle East is a vital issue for Japan, which imports about 60 per cent of its oil needs from the region.

Peace in Gulf

For this reason, Japan has also been interested in seeing a peace treaty between Iran and Iraq. Fighting in the Gulf war halted last August when a United Nations-sponsored cease-fire took effect, but peace talks have stalled.

Murata affirmed Japan's readiness to play a key role in both countries' post-war reconstruction programmes. Tokyo maintained good ties with Baghdad and Tehran during the war.

The UAE has traditionally had good links with Iran and Murata was expected to sound out UAE officials on their assessment on peace prospects in the Gulf.

Japanese diplomats said Murata was to discuss recent developments in the Middle East and Iran-Iraq peace efforts with Foreign Ministry officials.

Economic interests

The UAE is one of Tokyo's major oil suppliers. Japanese imports in the first quarter of this year were estimated at \$1.4 billion, including \$1 billion in crude oil and \$184 million in gas.

The trade balance, heavily in favour of the UAE, showed only \$349 million worth of Japanese exports to the Gulf state, mostly electronics and transport vehicles.

Figures for last year showed Japanese imports from the UAE worth \$5.3 billion, while exports were valued at \$1.3 billion.

Sudan junta fires more officers

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan's military junta is quietly retiring army officers and releasing from detention some politicians associated with the civilian government it toppled on June 30, sources in Khartoum said Sunday.

The diplomatic and Sudanese sources said at least 270 officers had been pensioned off, an increase of 170 over the past 11 days.

Scores of policemen, fire officers and prison officials were being asked to leave as well.

The sources said the 15-man junta had freed from detention a former Information Minister Al Toum Mohammad Al Toum and former Minister of State for Relief Ahmed Saad Omar. Both are members of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

Former Irrigation Minister Mahmoud Beshir Gamaa of ousted Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's Umma Party was freed together with Khaled Farah, editor of the banned independent newspaper Al Siyassa.

Umma and the DUP were the main partners in the Mahdi-led coalition toppled by the junta which is headed by General Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

About 50 politicians associated with Mahdi's three-year rule in power have been detained. Bashir said that Mahdi and DUP leader Mohammed Osman Al Mirghani are among those detained who would be tried on corruption charges and could face the death penalty.

Iran on tightrope between religion and politics

By Eric Hall
Reuters

DUBAI — Iran's new leaders are walking a tightrope, trying to balance the material aspirations of 50 million Iranians against the raw Islamic fundamentalism that swept the mullahs to power a decade ago.

Foreign and Iranian political analysts said in Tehran last week that more pragmatic leaders, such as Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, want to satisfy the needs of a people who face a chronic shortage of the most basic goods.

But to do so, they cannot afford to undermine the strict Islamic precepts upon which their own authority rests.

"We've seen it most lately in China. If you let go too fast, people want more," said a Gulf-based diplomat, referring to China's bloody crackdown against its

student-led democracy movement after ten years of economic liberation.

To threaten Islam would also alienate powerful, conservative mullahs entrenched in Iran's holy city of Qom, and a generation of revolutionary radicals who wish to keep the Islamic republic isolated from the outside world at any cost, the analysts said.

"As far as it is possible for us, we will rule under the Islamic code. This is our duty," said Iran's new spiritual leader Ali Khamenei, who succeeded Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini last month.

Both Khamenei and Rafsanjani, who is certain to win the July 28 presidential elections, stand for economic revival to arrest rapidly declining living standards.

Inflation is rampant, and a flourishing black market is openly tolerated by the authorities.

But the type of Islamic fundamentalism which toppled the Shah of Iran in 1979, is less effective when it comes to staging an economic revival after eight years of war with Iraq and ten years of revolution that destroyed most business initiative.

Since the ceasefire, Iran has promoted close relations with its few wartime allies, such as North Korea.

It has also improved economic ties with the Soviet Union which, with the United States, Iran had always regarded as one of the two "Great Satans."

Islam's strictures against usury are among factors that have prevented Iran from taking full advantage of foreign loans to help its economy.

And Khomeini's doctrinal dislike of capitalism discouraged entrepreneurs in a land where a major paper, the daily Ettelaat, in March said: "At least take a few

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli jeep hits mine, soldier injured

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli army jeep hit a land mine late Saturday during a patrol near Hasbaya in South Lebanon, the military command said. One soldier was lightly wounded and evacuated to Rambam hospital in Haifa, the army spokesman said. The jeep was on a routine patrol some three kilometres west of the Zumriya checkpoint at the edge of the self-declared "security zone" when it hit the mine, the army said. The "security zone" is a 10- to 15-kilometre-wide enclave carved out by Israel after it withdrew the bulk of its forces from Lebanon in 1985, following a 1982 invasion of that country. The zone is now patrolled by some 1,500 Israeli troops and 2,500 members of the South Lebanese Army, an Israeli-backed local militia.

Lebanese woman arrested with heroin

LARNACA (AP) — A 42-year-old Lebanese woman was arrested on arrival Saturday when customs agents found 1.5 kilograms of heroin in her luggage. Tereza Labit Bou Ziaoudi appeared before a local court which ordered her imprisoned for eight days pending the completion of police investigations. Police put the street value of the heroin at \$150,000. Police prosecutor Clotas Kyriacos told the court Ziaoudi revealed that following her arrival by boat from the port of Jounieh north of Beirut she had planned to fly to Rome, Italy, to deliver the heroin to a contact. Kyriacos said the woman had transited Cyprus many times in the past five months. Police are investigating whether other persons in Cyprus are cooperating with her, he added. He said the heroin was hidden in secret compartments in her suitcase and her handbag.

Turkish-Cypriot court convicts protesters

NICOSIA (R) — Crowds demanding stiff penalties demonstrated Saturday outside a Turkish-Cypriot court which convicted 10 Greek Cypriots of illegal entry during a green line protest. "I believe it has been proved by the (prosecution) attorney that the defendants did commit the offences," said Judge Goul Eroner, convicting the first batch of Greek Cypriots to appear before her. But she delayed sentencing, saying she could not proceed because of the noise made outside the court by about 400 Turkish Cypriots chanting "We want the priests... we want the murderers punished." Two priests were among 108 Greek Cypriots seized on Wednesday after they stormed into a Nicosia section of the buffer zone dividing the island to protest the 15-year-old Turkish intervention in northern Cyprus.

Iran seizes contraband carpets

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said on Saturday it had made its biggest seizure of contraband carpets in a decade, uncovering a cargo worth millions of dollars hidden in tanker trucks. The Iranian news agency IRNA said two people had been arrested in connection with the plot to smuggle out 774 handwoven carpets. It quoted a security official as saying the consignment was worth tens of billions of rials, equivalent to tens of millions of dollars at the black market exchange rate. "This is the largest cargo of smuggled carpets in the region since the victory of the (1979) revolution," the official said. Handwoven carpets are Iran's main non-oil export item, bringing in several hundred millions of dollars a year. But officials and exporters complain that the illegal trade almost equals legal exports.

'Moscow will renew ties with Israel'

KUWAIT (R) — A senior Soviet envoy was quoted Saturday as saying that Moscow would renew diplomatic relations with Israel and was ready for links with Saudi Arabia. "A time will come when normal relations are restored (with Israel)," Kuwait's Al Anbaa newspaper quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Guennadi Tarasov as saying in an interview in Tunis. "In principle the lack of diplomatic relations between countries in modern times is considered unnatural." But he added Moscow would only consider renewing ties with Israel after an international Middle East peace conference. He was also quoted as saying that Moscow was prepared to open an embassy in Riyadh as soon as the Saudis were ready. "We understand that the presence or lack of embassies is an issue related to the policies of the two parties, but Moscow sees nothing that would prevent restoring relations," he said. Saudi Arabia broke off diplomatic relations with Moscow in 1938. Led by the Soviet Union, all Eastern bloc nations, except Romania, severed ties with Israel during the 1967 war.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
17:00 Flying Doctors
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local series
19:15 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Hebrew
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programmes
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Les Pique Asiettes
18:30 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 The Golden Girls
21:10 "Around the World in 80 Days"
22:00 News in English
22:20 Gentlemen and Players

PRAYER TIMES
04:07 Fajr
05:39 (Sunrise) Duha
12:42 Dhur
16:23 'Asr
19:45 Maghreb
21:16 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweithel Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather is expected and winds will be northeasterly moderate to strong. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min/Max. temp.
Amman 20 / 33

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba 26 / 39
Djerba 21 / 36
Jordan Valley 26 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Hani Haddadin 777751
Dr. Issam Abu Riq 661967
Dr. Amin Abdel Jaber 614222
Dr. Mohammad Al Horani 898352
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 674055
Netreah pharmacy 623672
Al Salim pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamash pharmacy 637600

ERBIL:
Dr. Mazen Abu Baker (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:
Dr. Misbah Al Hijawi (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 623101
Amman Municipality 614222
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 674055
Netreah pharmacy 623672
Al Salim pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamash pharmacy 637600

Electric Power 636381
Company 642412
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 751126
The Islamic, Abdal 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdal 661646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771013
Al-Musader Hospital 667279
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Al-Ahli, Abdal 661646
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Italian, Al-Muhaj

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BILBEISI GETS NEW POST: Ministry of Health Secretary General Dr. Anwar Bilbeisi has been chosen to fill the post of executive director general of the Islamic Academy for Science and Technology. (Petra)

☆ A French film entitled "Une Vie" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Hiyasat said that the corporation has started implementing government instructions for extending to 30 rather than 20 years, the period in which the total amount required for the annuities should be paid.

Previously the downpayment amounted to 10 per cent of the total cost of the housing unit for any beneficiary.

Last October, a national strategic study on housing in Jordan revealed that the country was in need of 430,000 new housing units between now and the year 2006, and said that there was an urgent need to build low-cost housing units for families with limited income.

Countries represented at the seminar are: Iraq, Egypt, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, North and South Yemen, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Jordan.



The £547,000 assistance will help the NRA carry out an underground thermal power programme and establish a department to prepare maps for exploration of natural resources in the Kingdom.

Taqi also announced that the ministry will Tuesday announce a list of names of students who succeeded only in certain subjects and failed in the rest. He said that these students can call at their own schools later to get a full transcript of the subjects in which they succeeded.

Omari said that other civil registration, passport endorsements and births certificates, procedures conducted by Jordanian embassies abroad brought the department a revenue of JD 42,257 between January and May 1989.

Jordan Times

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For mankind's sake

IN A CEREMONY marking the 20th anniversary of the first moon landing by American astronauts, President George Bush called for "a journey into tomorrow" which would include manned flights to Mars. Down-to-earth people tend to mock such visionary plans to outer space, preferring that man's ingenuity, including American state of the art know-how, be consecrated for the treatment of the issues and conflicts that still afflict and haunt mankind on Earth. They see a tremendous wastage of energy and resources on very far away schemes when disease, poverty and armed conflicts continue to ravage man and his environment.

On second thought, however, eyeing the outer space and the planets of man's solar system has such a profound and sublime effect on man's perspective with regard to his many mundane problems and concerns that could enable him to place them in a more proper perspective. In turn such an enlightened viewpoint could be the start of a genuine effort to settle these very subjects. To begin with, the advent of deeper exploration of other planets, would enable man to acquire a truly universal perspective. Such a sophisticated outlook and approach to worldly issues and subjects, be they medical, social, political or what have you, would render the resolution of such matters much easier. Above all, practically all the problems that divide one man from another and contribute to the killing of one man by another for political, social, economic or even religious reasons would be dwarfed to proper size in the context of the newly acquired universal perspective. As additional exploration of outer space can be anticipated to develop this much needed universal perspective, mankind must find much satisfaction and hope every time a capable nation makes another leap to the special environs of planet Earth.

The only thing that should trouble mankind in these contexts is the determination of the superpowers to exploit their feats in outer space for strategic aims be they economic or military. Humanity can sigh with relief only when the big powers find it in themselves to cooperate rather than compete in their explorations of the planets that can be reached by man. Any talk of establishing an American or Soviet base on the Moon or any other distant planet does not offer mankind the kind of assurances that future generations need. In the same vein, travel to Mars or other destinations in outer space is not intended to accentuate nationalism. On the contrary, such voyages to far away planets is expected to generate a spirit of universality. That is why man would be disturbed by President Bush's declaration that his government's goal "is nothing than to establish the U.S. as the pre-eminent space-faring nation." As when Neil Armstrong on July 20, 1969 described his first ever human footstep on the Moon as a giant leap forward for mankind, all future man landings on Mars and beyond must continue to be viewed as giant leaps forward for all peoples.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Jordanian Arabic dailies on Sunday gave a wide coverage in their editorials on the situation in Lebanon in the light of the recent escalation of shelling of residential areas and the loss of innocent lives. Al Ra'i for its part said that six people were killed and 55 others injured in Saturday's intensive shelling — a process which is continuing despite the efforts of the Arab League three-member committee which is now trying to put an end to the tragedy. The deterioration in the security situation in Lebanon in general and in Beirut in particular, is to be blamed on the warring factions themselves in the first place, as they should refrain from escalating the war activities to help the committee achieve some constructive results, the paper said. The Arab League committee has been patient enough with the concerned parties and has displayed a great deal of flexibility in dealing with the chronic problem with the hope that the various parties would respond to reason, said the paper. It said that such approach seems to have produced no fruitful result, and there is no doubt that what the Arab League ought to do now is to take a firm and more drastic measure by exposing those parties that continue to impede the implementation of a comprehensive plan to end the civil war.

Al Dostour said that the intensive shelling in Beirut has overshadowed all efforts being made at all levels to stop the bloodshed. It is said to realise that the warring parties themselves are aware of the fact that the only loser in this civil war in Lebanon is Lebanon and the Lebanese; and that the destruction and the killing is benefitting no party at all, the paper noted. It is like a mass suicide and a total devastation of all political, economic and social life in Lebanon, the paper added. It said that the escalation in the military situation calls on the Arab League to take extra measures and new and more effective steps to find a peace formula.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on a call by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to the Israeli government to define its political position with regard to the situation in the Palestinian lands. Mubarak, in his nation-wide address on the July 23 revolution anniversary, said that the recent developments within the Likud bloc in Israel have further complicated matters, and presented fresh obstacles in the path of peace, said the paper. The paper called Mubarak's proposal to the Israeli government to open negotiations with the Palestinians as the only way out of the present dilemma. It said that the United States and Israel, which had delayed any meaningful action in the past, should now direct their attention towards recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate right for self-determination.

Iran after Khomeini: political and economic dimensions

By Scheherazade Daneshkhu

THE POST-Khomeini era, long predicted to be a period of factional infighting, even civil war, in fact seems to be moving along with incredible fluidity. But the last ten years have shown how unpredictable Iranian politics can be, making any instant conclusions both risky and premature. While the pragmatists, in the shape of the new leader and president, Ali Khamenei and the speaker of the Majlis, Hojatolislam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, appear to have sewn things up between them, they face a number of formidable hurdles in the months to come.

The problem of the Faqih

The first lies in establishing and justifying Khamenei's right to rule as the faqih, or supreme religious leader, an issue which the government has been fudging through its reluctance to refer to him as this. The term being used instead is the less well-defined "Leader of the Republic." The reason is probably two-fold. Khamenei's overnight promotion from an Hojatoleslam to an Ayatollah will have failed to convince all except the most loyal that he has the religious qualifications to rule as the faqih. But his appointment can be taken as an indication of the sort of change being made to the constitution on the leadership issue. Before Khomeini died, it seemed likely that the government, in the very recognition that Khomeini had no successor, would downgrade the position of the faqih to one which could be filled by a respected cleric with extensive administrative experience and proven loyalty to the system. Had Khomeini died a few months later, this provision would have been approved by public referendum and Khamenei's appointment would have been more convincing. As it is, however, the government finds itself hovering between two uncomplementary positions.

In any case, the problem of the faqih is unlikely to be solved, whatever happens to the constitution. For the valayat-e-faqih, or of the rule of the supreme leader, underpins the whole structure of the Islamic Republic. Attempts to redefine it risks pulling down the whole structure, at least in ideological terms. It was Khamenei himself, taking a step in this direction, who over a year ago provoked Khomeini's wrath by seeming to suggest that government is bound by Islamic laws. Khomeini angrily told him that his view was "wrong and contradictory." For Khomeini, Islamic government meant the valayat-e-faqih under which the 12th Imam of Shi'ism, who disappeared in the ninth century, is represented in his absence by a supreme religious leader whose orders became the most important of all divine laws surpassing, for example, the injunction to prayer or to fasting.

While Khamenei quickly took back any suggestion that contradicted Khomeini's views, the fact remains that the position of the faqih is no longer tenable in the absence of a towering religious personality. The moves afoot now to turn it into a glorified administrative position within the system beg the question why power should then reside with the clergy. Moreover, by diluting the spiritual importance of the position, Iran will, in effect, be abandoning its "third way" between communism and capitalism. Instead, the position of the faqih is likely to turn into that of a figurehead. With Khamenei's installation being publicly approved by the major elements of government, it seems increasingly likely that he will remain there even after the July elections, instead of a leadership council being formed.

Rafsanjani for the presidency

This outcome will have given Rafsanjani the deepest satisfaction, since Khamenei poses no threat to him as rival for power. Instead the two have worked closely together over the past few years and appear to share similar views on foreign policy and the need for political centralisation. The periodic eruption of bickering between government officials has been notably absent in relations between the two.

Rafsanjani has now officially announced his candidacy for president "since no other personality has announced their readiness as yet." The timing of Rafsanjani's announcement coincides with the news that a draft law has been produced allowing for an executive presidency. This is expected to give the president far more freedom of movement and power at his disposal than the present constitution allows. Indeed, Rafsanjani would not have stood for president unless these changes were going to be made. In addition, the post of prime

minister is likely to be dispensed with altogether, leaving the present incumbent, Mir Hussein Mussavi, a leading radical, out of a job.

Rafsanjani has shown some impatience, however, in the debates of the 25-man Council for Review of the Constitution, of which he is a member. Critics argue that the sort of enhanced presidency being envisaged could lead to one-man rule. "We have a president for whom the people will vote once every four years; for God's sake, someone will come to power," Rafsanjani said at one

Rafsanjani has shown some impatience, however, in the debates of the 25-man Council for Review of the Constitution, of which he is a member. Critics argue that the sort of enhanced presidency being envisaged could lead to one-man rule. "We have a president for whom the people will vote once every four years; for God's sake, someone will come to power", Rafsanjani said at one of the sessions. "Some gentlemen are speaking about freedom, I don't know how this centralisation in the executive branch can be against freedom."

Daunting economic task

Once the July elections are over, the new government will have to face the daunting task of rebuilding the economy. According to Kamran Mofid, author of *The Gulf War: an analysis of the economic consequences*, the total economic cost of the war to Iran was \$542 billion. Economic development was suspended during its eight years and it is now that the government is going to have to prod the unproductive economy into some kind of shape.

Though Iran emerged essentially solvent from the war, cutbacks have been at the expense of the infrastructure, and industry is only working at 40 per cent productivity, while some industries, particularly consumer goods, have all but collapsed. The main economic problems are all interconnected and stem from the country's low productivity. Inflation is high, the dollar is bought at 1,300 rials as opposed to the official 70 rials and the enormous black market is flourishing. Tehran property prices have doubled over the past year; a kilo of potatoes costing \$2 last year now costs \$9. A pair of tyres officially costs \$170 but those who cannot afford to wait for new supplies are prepared to pay \$2,000 in the black market. The degree of inflation varies so considerably between goods that it is virtually meaningless to talk about an annual rate of inflation, though this stands at 25-30 per cent according to the govern-

ment. Government attempts to stem inflation have proved singularly unsuccessful. The recently implemented state punishment law requires shopkeepers to fix price labels on their goods or else be hauled before the courts as "hoarders and profiteers." But, according to one Tehran daily, Abrar, the measure has had the opposite effect by encouraging shopkeepers to hide their goods, pushing prices higher still. "Why do they (government planners) make the market more chaotic by the so-called campaign against high prices and profiteering?" asked the paper. "The campaign will not become possible when there is no balance between supply and demand."

Role for the private sector

Recently, the government has been attempting to tap the resources of the private sector by encouraging its participation in the economy. In an attempt to forestall criticism, Behzad Nabavi, the heavy industries minister and a former communist, said, "If some people get rich this way, we should not howl and say our socialist principles have been damaged. We must make the best use of all foreign exchange outside official channels." In any case, those who want to get rich are already doing so in the service sector, he said. "So at least let them get rich by exporting non-oil goods to the benefit of the country."

The government has also been denationalising its assets, but since it is loss-making state companies that are being sold off, buyers are scarce. According to one businessman, the policy is bound to be unsuccessful so long as the measures go only half-way. "Why should I buy a company

and then be told how to run it and what I am and am not allowed to do?"

In a recent press conference, Rafsanjani played down the problems of the economy pointing to the huge crowds at Khomeini's funeral as evidence that the system has widespread support, while a minority grumbles. However, the economic stagnation has been one of the dominant issues both in the Majlis itself and the government-controlled press. Problems are unlikely to ease, given the country's steep rise in population, high unemployment and a wave of demobilised men.

For the time being, Rafsanjani is likely to concentrate on smoothing the path of transition at home during the sensitive months ahead. His visit to the Soviet Union which started on 20th June was a clear indication of the confidence he felt. For the meantime, the radical factions appear to have bowed to his extraordinary political acumen and have left him unchallenged. Perhaps too, it is a recognition of his relative popularity and leadership abilities. How long this situation will last will largely depend on how quickly Rafsanjani begins to infringe on their territory, in the form of renewing relations with the West or attempting to secure the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

For the last years, Iran was dominated by the personality of one man. It is ironic that those years seem to have produced only one other man capable of taking over. The difference is, however, that a post-Rafsanjani Iran is likely to be a far more chaotic and uncertain place than the country to which Khomeini has finally left his legacy — Middle East International, London.

OPEN FORUM

Where is the better half?

IF YOU are a married man and a reception goes in Amman, you should not be upset by this article, unless you insist on attending to your social obligations unaccompanied by your wife.

I, for one, believe that being at a reception can be both entertaining and educative. I also share the opinion that some receptions can be boring. It all depends, I think, on the individual's outlook on life, and not exclusively on the circumstances.

On such occasions, however, one can easily notice a pattern of behaviour of a married man who elegantly shows up unaccompanied by his better half. One can accept many good reasons as to why this man or the other has been abandoned by his spouse on that particular day. One wife can be sick; another can be visiting her mother or her sister; a third can be busy with some urgent matter etc., etc.

There is no question in a normal relationship, that most wives like to be with their husbands everywhere, all the time, especially to such pleasant social gatherings. When this kind of sharing is not taking place, a question or two may arise: how come that the husband can leave home alone, and presumably enjoy the "legitimate" escape; and remain immune from reproach or reprimand?

Anyhow having once safely arrived at the function alone, the gallant husband puts his strategy into practice. He starts off by quickly sipping a neat-shot drink as a protocol. He politely talks with an acquaintance about children's education, while his eyes are slowly roaming around as the drink moistens his mouth. He is looking for some one; he is looking for a potential female companion: whether an old friend or better a new face.

It is a nice evening, and a good time for romance! Our hero is on the move, cautiously. But it can be a long and sometimes an agonising pursuit. In this quest, he might bump into some old friends. Courtesy obliges him to spend few more minutes with each group. Towards the end of the half interesting conversation, his eyes land on the long awaited target — but suddenly another person breaks into the circle, and the hunter's score has been delayed again. When the interruption is over, the target has already disappeared into the crowd, or has been encircled by other intruders.

But the clock keeps ticking, and our friend is getting more and more impatient. He tries to drown his frustration by consuming more alcohol. The worst that can happen to this man now and to any one near him, is to give him the floor. His original plans seem to be falling apart, and the alternative is to get snappy and angry. An anger mixed with a feeling of negligence and impotence. Anger at everything and at every one, including his wife and his children. Imagine what happens when this exhausted bull finally gets home.

It is not a very pleasant tale. But we all know that it happens all the time.

In their invitation cards, hosts should insist that all guests should be accompanied by their spouses. Or they should arrange to increase the number of women present at the reception, for some party-animals.

Salim Ayoub

Obstructing justice?

By Pete Yost
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Justice Department, responding to national security concerns of the CIA, has prepared a step that could kill some or all of the Iran-contra criminal case against a former operative at the spy agency.

Department officials Friday were preparing an affidavit that would block disclosures about some CIA programmes in the case of Joseph Fernandez, who is scheduled to go on trial Monday on charges of lying about his assistance to Oliver North's secret contra supply network.

Representatives of U.S. intelligence agencies were to meet through the weekend to produce the affidavit in time for the trial Monday, said an administration source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Fernandez, the CIA's former station chief in Costa Rica, is the highest-ranking employee of the agency ever to face a criminal trial in connection with his work there.

At a court hearing, prosecutor Laurence Shatsel revealed that acting deputy attorney general Ed Dennis contacted independent counsel Lawrence Walsh Thursday night and said a nation-

al security affidavit would be filed concerning the use of classified information.

The classified information concerns "three highly sensitive United States government programmes with Costa Rica," Walsh's office said in court papers. Fernandez says the programmes demonstrated Costa Rica's concern about the military threat posed by neighbouring Nicaragua.

If the Justice Department files a narrow affidavit, the independent counsel is prepared to drop its prosecution of most of one of the false statement counts, said Shatsel.

With a Justice Department affidavit in hand, U.S. district judge Claude Hilton would have no choice under federal law but to prohibit Fernandez from using in his defence the classified information detailed in the affidavit. Shatsel said in that event, portions of at least one count of the four-count indictment against Fernandez would be abandoned.

The prosecutor said attorney general Dick Thornburgh also is considering a CIA request to broaden the affidavit to exclude references at Fernandez's trial to CIA stations in various countries.

That step "would have more drastic consequences" for the case against Fernandez, Shatsel told the judge at the court hearing in Alexandria, Virginia.

"If the CIA's request for a broader... affidavit is granted the case will be unviable," Shatsel said in court papers filed later in the day.

The judge rejected a request by Shatsel to delay Monday's starting date for the trial and the judge also turned down a motion by Fernandez lawyer Thomas Wilson to throw out the case.

"This defendant is on a rack," said Wilson, who said the filing of an affidavit more than two years after his client first came under criminal investigation leaves the judge little choice but to dismiss charges.

Fernandez is accused of four criminal charges — single counts of obstructing the CIA inspector general's office and the investigative Tower commission and two counts of making false statements.

If the Justice Department files a narrow affidavit, the indepen-

dent counsel is prepared to drop its prosecution of most of one of the false statement counts, said Shatsel.

That would include an allegation that Fernandez falsely told the CIA inspector general's investigators in 1987 that a secret airstrip construction project that became part of North's contra supply network was initiated by the Costa Rican government.

Another allegedly false statement in that count that would be dropped is that the airstrip was to be used for training activities by Costa Rican forces in preparation for a possible Nicaraguan invasion.

At trial, Fernandez wants to use information about the three highly sensitive U.S. programmes with Costa Rica to show that the Central American country's government was concerned about the military threat posed by Nicaragua.

Fernandez is accused of falsely telling CIA investigator L. Cole Black that the airstrip was a Costa Rican initiative to be used if Costa Rica was invaded by Nicaragua and that "subsequently, we thought it would be good for resupply" of the contra, according to prosecutors' court papers.

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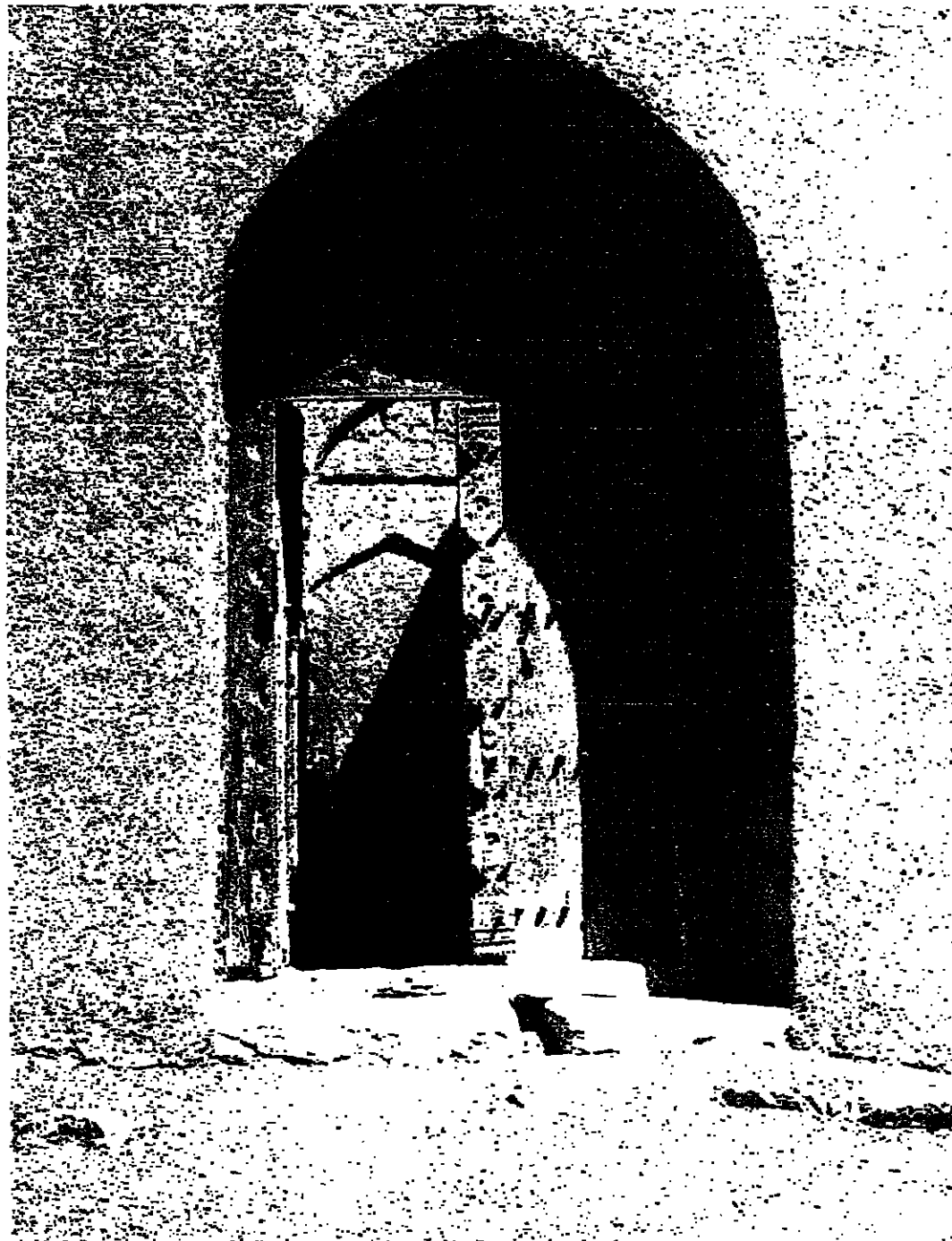
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Oman has few Omani technicians



Gate in ancient Nizwa fort

Oman — an ancient culture opens its doors to the 20th century

By Philippa Neave

PARIS — Less than twenty years ago, there were only ten kilometres of paved roads in the whole country. Today, 60,000 kilometres of highways criss-cross the land. Twenty years ago, there were only three schools with a total of 900 pupils. Today, close to 300,000 pupils attend nearly 700 schools throughout the country.

Such figures speak volumes about the extraordinary speed at which the ancient — and secretive — Sultanate of Oman has developed. This nation of 1.4 million people, tucked away at the eastern tip of the Arabian peninsula, has taken a huge leap into the modern world of computers and satellites in recent years. Its people now enjoy all the amenities offered by a modern-day society.

Hidden away at the edge of a continent, locked between the desert and the ocean, this country of mountains, sand and sea was for a long time kept deliberately isolated from the Western world.

But times are changing. Offered the chance of a rare glimpse into the nation's arts, crafts and achievements, Parisians have been flocking to an exhibition which opened recently at the Arab World Institute in the French capital. Called "Oman Cultural Week", part of the show has been retained to form a permanent display. The result is a fascinating opportunity to discover a country whose ancient traditions and rich culture have sur-

vived almost intact, in spite of rapid and far-reaching changes over the past few years.

"The preservation of Oman's cultural heritage has always been an absolute priority," said Musa Bin Jaffer Bin Hassan, the Sultan's ambassador to the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation (UNESCO).

Speaking in an interview at the opening of the show, the 39-year-old ambassador described his government's efforts to develop public awareness of Oman's rich cultural heritage. Back in 1976 Oman set up a Ministry of Heritage and Culture to oversee the nation's patrimony.

"The government has already undertaken the restoration of hundreds of ancient forts and citadels around the country, which have now been put on the World Heritage list," said the ambassador.

Among the Ministry's aims is the collection and restoration of some of the 30,000 or so ancient manuscripts believed to be in private hands in various parts of the country. "These manuscripts are a very important part of our heritage and include some of the oldest books on literature, medicine, astrology and religious science," said Ambassador Musa. "Some 6000 manuscripts have already been collected up, restored and re-bound."

As part of the drive to sharpen interest in Oman's cultural history, the government has opened several new museums. "A few years ago, there wasn't a single

museum in Oman. Now there are three, and we are also planning to open a big cultural centre in Muscat, with a large library," said the ambassador. Another new venture is Oman's Literary Club, which opened two years ago. It hosts weekly conferences, organises poetry meetings and conducts research and study programmes.

According to Ambassador Musa, everything possible is being done to reconcile the country's rapid development and its ancient traditions.

"For example, in the administration and government, Omanis are forbidden to wear anything but traditional dress," he said. On ceremonial occasions many Omanis wear elegant robes with gold thread trimmings and beautiful, elaborately embroidered turbans. "This is just one way of keeping traditions alive in peoples' minds despite the speed of civilisation and development," said the ambassador.

Much attention is devoted to architecture. Cities and villages have seen a terrific construction boom over the past two decades, but according to Ambassador Musa, designs for new buildings have to follow the rules of traditional Omani and Islamic architecture.

Education is a field where colossal strides have been made. In 1970, when Oman's ruler, Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said came to power, only 900 pupils attended the country's three schools. Today, according to UNESCO fi-

gures, more than eighty per cent of all children attend primary school. The number of children in secondary education leapt from 1,379 in 1975 to 54,000 by the year 1985. In the same ten year span, the number of teachers soared from 208 to 4,196.

"Almost every child goes to school and there are schools all over the country, even in the most remote villages," said Ambassador Musa. "Of course, we went from the bottom up, starting with elementary schools, then secondary schools, colleges and finally the country's first university, which opened in 1987."

As well as the departments of science, medicine, agriculture, engineering and Islamic studies, Sultan Qaboos University also offers a teacher training programme. The aim is to produce more home-grown teachers. Until now, the country has mainly relied on professionals from other Arab countries — more than sixty per cent of Oman's teachers are Egyptian.

Omanis used to have to go abroad to receive further education. Many went to Britain and the U.S. while others signed up at universities in the Arab World, especially in the neighbouring Gulf countries.

Said the ambassador: "In terms of numbers of students, the University is small. (632 students in the academic year 1987/88). But it was conceived as a model, and we are planning to add other departments in the future."

Oman's progress in the field of

education has been helped by its membership of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) which includes Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. A Gulf University is scheduled to open in Bahrain and a Study and Training centre is planned in Kuwait.

"We are the second largest country in the Council, and we have a very ancient culture, so Oman could play a very important role," said Ambassador Musa. Oman is due to take over the rotating presidency of the GCC in the Fall.

The development of communications, a modern infrastructure and new hotels has also paved the way for a small but growing army of visitors from neighbouring Gulf countries. "We are blessed with a good climate, green mountains and 1,700 kilometres of beautiful beaches," said the ambassador. As yet, most visitors from abroad are required to travel in organised groups, he added. "We are still in the early stages of organising and planning things, but we would like to open the door to tourism," he said.

That door will not be flung wide open, however, and Oman is unlikely to be flooded by hordes of tourists. Old traditions die hard, and Oman remains wary of too much foreign influence. "We must be careful to control tourism if we are to protect our heritage and culture," said the ambassador.

It is hard not to agree. One of

the most dazzling exhibits at the Arab World Institute is a collection of traditional daggers, jewels and ornaments, donated by the fabulously wealthy Sultan Qaboos, all of them made with the exquisite craftsmanship for which the Omanis have long been famous.

Sadly, says Ambassador Musa, more and more Omanis are turning away from traditional jewelry — which typically combines coins with gold and precious stones — in favour of more modern-style adornments. Progress has its price, even in this quiet corner of the globe. — *World News Link*.

The end of asbestos is both near and far

By Philip Shabecoff

WASHINGTON — The government took a big step toward ending the long sad saga of asbestos last week when, years after having conclusive medical evidence of the danger, it imposed a gradual ban on the widely used construction and insulating material.

Still, the mineral will continue to exact a toll for decades to come as past exposures, and continuing exposures to the many products containing asbestos still in the environment, work their insidious damage. By reducing future human contacts with asbestos fibers, however, the new ruling should prevent many deaths that would otherwise occur.

The Environmental Protection Agency ordered that the manufacture, use and export of most asbestos products be phased out over a seven-year period. The rule would eliminate about 94 per cent of the asbestos still used in construction materials, brake linings and other applications.

Consumer fear about health effects and producer fear about liability have already caused the sales of asbestos to drop sharply. From more than 500,000 metric tons sold in 1979 the use of asbestos has declined to 85,000 tons today.

The agency began 10 years ago to draft rules for removing asbestos from the market. But resistance from producers and users, supported by the Office of Management and Budget, which objected to the cost to the economy of such a step, blocked final action until last week.

But the dangers of asbestos were known much earlier. In use since the beginning of this century, the potential health effects of the mineral were first studied by industry in the 1920's and 30's. Evidence from lawsuits by victims of exposure suggests that industry officials may have deliberately withheld data about its dangers as early as the 1930's.

It was not until World War II that the use of asbestos spread rapidly. A superb material for resisting heat and friction, it was used lavishly in the construction of ships. Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of Mount Sinai Medical Centre in New York, a pioneer in the study of the health effects of asbestos, estimated that more than 4.5 million shipyard workers were exposed to the material during the war and thousands of workers each year thereafter. After the war the use of asbestos — in roofing, insulation, airconditioning and heating ducts, in brakes and gaskets and thousands of other applications — exploded. An estimated 30 million tons have been used this century.

By 1964, Dr. Selikoff had presented findings that shipyard workers exposed to asbestos were developing lung cancer, asbestosis and other disease. Sometimes illness did not appear until 30 years after the workers were exposed. He believes that asbestos is responsible for about 10,000 cancer deaths a year.

The result of pouring asbestos into the environment all these years, said William K. Reilly, Administrator of the EPA, is "a terrible legacy of dead, dying and crippled." — *The New York Times*



Labourers removing asbestos during a training course

FAO chief sounds alarm on over-fishing

ROME — The warning by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation's director-general against the over-fishing and contamination of the world's oceans will have struck a responsive chord among developing countries.

Opening a session of the FAO's Committee on Fisheries here, Edouard Saouma spoke of the profound changes which had affected world fisheries over the past four decades. Production had leapt from around 20 million tonnes a year to more than 90 million tonnes.

Trade in fish products had also expanded greatly, he added. Its value had risen four-fold in real terms since 1960 alone.

However, as a result, the exploitation of many major stocks was now approaching or had even exceeded the point of maximum sustainable yield. It was a situation which demanded concerted action.

Saouma called for international measures to achieve greater control over fishing and for stricter supervision of coastal waters. In many regions these waters were badly endangered due to contamination.

In discussing over-fishing, experts at the Rome-based FAO will usually cite the waters of Angola and neighbouring Namibia — once among the world's richest — as leading examples of the problem.

These resources have suffered serious depredations for more than a decade while Angola has been embroiled in civil war and the status of Namibia has been the subject of a dispute between the U.N. and South Africa.

FAO officials have noted that the Angolan government has been trying to assert more control over fishing in its waters, but this has proved difficult, especially over the privileges granted to the USSR in return for its military and political support.

Nevertheless negotiations over the renewal of these co-operation agreements appear to have become progressively tougher over recent years. Although a new, one-year accord was signed recently in Luanda, Angola's fisheries minister, Ramos da Cruz, admitted that the two sides had failed to agree on a number of issues.

The most serious impasse was over the size of the Soviet quota

and Angola's share of catches, the minister added. It is believed that the Angolans wanted to reduce the quota by more than half or well under 100,000 tonnes.

According to the O Jornal de Angola, the minister said that the Angolan authorities were concerned over the "problem of over-fishing in the country's waters, which will make it impossible for national and foreign fishing fleets to continue fishing as in the past."

Studies were in hand to establish limits on catches, but on this question, the Angolan govern-

ment's views were not shared by its partners. The Russians are believed to be disputing the rate at which stocks are being depleted.

The official daily also quoted the minister as saying that although Angola's new fishing fleet was not yet capable of supplying the total demand, as its capacity increased there would have to be a "substantial reduction" in the size of the foreign fleets that co-operated with Angola. It was on this point that they were encountering "difficul-

ties."

Angola's experience is typical of many developing countries. The activities of the USSR's fishing fleet — the world's largest — have aroused widespread concern.

Having badly depleted stocks in its traditional fishing grounds, the Soviet Union has been forced to send its vessels further and further afield. Thus co-operation agreements were concluded with Third World nations which, at first, were enthusiastic about these ventures. — *Lion feature*

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Million Israelis strike in unemployment protest

TEL AVIV (R) — One million Israelis staged a two-hour general strike Sunday in protest at the worst unemployment in 20 years as the cabinet debated measures to revive an economy stricken by the Palestinian uprising.

The first nationwide work stoppage since 1985 grounded planes, closed ports, banks and government offices and silenced state-owned Israel radio. Strike organisers said some private firms worked as normal.

About 10,000 workers, ferried to occupied Jerusalem by the Histadrut labour federation, demonstrated outside parliament and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office as ministers discussed ways to overcome a rapidly rising jobless rate, which hit 9.7 per cent in May.

The rally passed off good-naturedly and there were no reports of violence elsewhere.

Histadrut General-Secretary Yisrael Kessar accused the government of doing nothing to fight unemployment, which he said had reached 20 per cent of the workforce in depressed develop-

ment towns.

"This is a solidarity strike... workers who have work are striking or demonstrating in favour of those who have no job," Kessar said in a radio interview.

Finance Minister Shimon Peres submitted to the cabinet an emergency plan to spend \$100 million on labour-intensive public works projects and offer tax incentives to encourage private investment in hard-hit development areas.

The Israeli economy has shown no growth at all in 1989, with industrial production continuing to fall, after only a sluggish 1.6 per cent increase in gross domestic product (GDP) last year, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Deputy Finance Minister Yossi Beilin said the 19-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occu-

pled West Bank and Gaza Strip had wiped two per cent off Israel's GDP last year and reduced Israeli exports to the occupied areas by \$600 million.

The cabinet approved a \$75 million supplement to this year's military budget to fight the uprising, adding to the economic cost of the revolt. The defence ministry had sought an extra \$210 million.

Organisers said the stoppage from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. (0800-1000 GMT) was widely observed in the public sector but public transport continued to run.

Among those on strike were Israeli diplomats at the foreign ministry, a spokesman said.

The labour ministry said 140,000 Israelis were now out of work.

Economists say unemployment is rising here at a time when it is falling in most European countries because Israel delayed rationalisation measures and cuts in state subsidies implemented in the early 1980s in Western Europe.

Kessar, facing a tough campaign for reelection in November, warned of further labour action unless the government took effective steps to bring down unemployment.

Unemployment is a particularly sensitive issue in Israel because many citizens are immigrants who migrated to the Zionist state out of idealism.

Zionist organisations have told the government that if the high jobless rate persists, more Israelis will emigrate and fewer immigrants from the Soviet Union and Western countries will come here.

OAU demands halt to Pretoria bank facilities

ADDIS ABABA (R) — African states have urged international banks to halt rescheduling of Pretoria's foreign debt.

They called for sweeping mandatory sanctions on the white minority-led nation, accusing it of a reign of terror against political opponents.

Foreign ministers of the 49-nation Organisation of African Unity (OAU), preparing for the opening of a summit in Addis Ababa Monday, adopted the tough resolutions at the end of a week of talks that ended Saturday night.

A last-minute resolution

strongly urged "the international banking community not to reschedule the foreign debt of apartheid South Africa," which runs to several billion dollars.

The resolution also called on Pretoria's trading partners, mainly Western nations, to end double taxation agreements with South Africa and any further credit guarantees and to oppose loans to the country guaranteed by gold, its leading export.

The ministers rebuked Chile, Israel and Taiwan for cooperating with Pretoria in military matters and urged them to strictly observe a United Nations arms embargo on South Africa.

Gulf International Bank announces higher profit

NICOSIA (R) — Gulf International Bank (GIB) said it made a net profit of \$28 million in the first six months of 1989, a 10.5 per cent rise for the same period of 1988.

The Bahrain-based bank made a net profit of \$25.4 million in the first half of 1988.

GIB, Bahrain's second largest offshore bank, returned to profit last year, making a net profit of \$45.6 million after a \$178.9 million loss in 1987.

GIB, in an unaudited statement received in Cyprus, said its assets rose to \$9.6 billion in the first half of 1989 compared with \$8.8 billion for the same period last year.

The bank attributed the rise in the assets to an increase of 19.7 per cent in the loan portfolio as a result of short-term trade financing in the Arab World.

Operating income rose to \$29.245 million in 1989 from \$26.6 million in 1988.

GIB Chairman Abdullah Saif, who is also Bahrain's Monetary Agency governor, said the results reflected continued growth in non-asset based earnings.

The bank said a reduction of 1.8 per cent in operating expenses and strict budgetary controls have contributed to the increase in the profit.

Loans grew to \$5.4 billion from \$4.5 billion in 1988, it said.



Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi



Basel Jaraneh

Top financiers meet press today to outline Jordan's monetary stand

AMMAN (J.T.) — Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh and Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi will hold a joint press conference Monday to give details about the outcome of Jordan's talks in Europe over the rescheduling of the Kingdom's foreign debts.

Jaraneh, who earlier this month led a government team to negotiations with bank and government creditors in London and Paris, Saturday evening briefed the Council of Ministers on the outcome of the talks.

The discussions in Paris resulted in agreement on rescheduling a major portion of Jordan's sovereign debt.

According to a statement in Paris, the 14 creditor governments had agreed to allow Jordan to spread repayments, due on the debt, over the coming 10 years including a five-year grace period.

The statement, which was issued at the end of the talks in the French capital, gave no details of the consolidation periods, the amount involved or whether or not the agreement covers interest as well as principal.

Jordan's total outstanding foreign debt is estimated at \$8 billion including \$1.2 billion owed to commercial banks. Earlier this month, Jaraneh and his team entered negotiations with the commercial bank creditors grouped together as the London Club.

Jaraneh had said that Jordan hopes to reschedule a total of about \$650 million in loan payments due this year, although he did not say how much is due to the banks nor to creditor governments.

with world markets.

It said the Abu Dhabi-based delegation would review the step with senior officials from the economy and finance and petroleum ministries and the Qatar Monetary Agency.

The step followed a similar move by its allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Oman and Bahrain — amid prevailing confidence after the August ceasefire in the eight-year-long Iraq-Iran war.

The GCC, an economic and political alliance, also groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Oman and Bahrain opened stock exchanges last May and June respectively and Kuwait started setting up a parallel exchange alongside its official market to encourage companies to go

China attacks private business

PEKING (R) — China accused private businessmen of evading taxes and exploiting female workers in what diplomats saw as a move to court public opinion after the military crackdown on pro-democracy protests.

The People's Daily said Sunday that the businessmen were the richest people in China, driving private cars, sporting luxury watches worth several thousands yuan and dressing their wives in expensive outfits and jewellery.

But it said a probe of Peking's 100,000 private businessmen revealed that at least 40 per cent of their income was illegal and evasion of tax and under-reporting of earnings was widespread.

"When they declare their income they lie low. The more they earn, the more they conceal... 94.5 per cent do not keep accounts. Who knows how much tax they evade?" the paper said.

It said some of their profits came from employing peasant girls from the countryside because they could pay them the lowest wages.

Banned for much of the Maoist period until 1976, private business boomed under reforms pioneered by leader Deng Xiaoping since 1979, giving China's cities a service sector that is the envy of many communist countries. "To get rich is glorious" became an official slogan.

According to official figures, China has more than 14 million private enterprises — many of them one-man operations and most of them restaurants, hairdressers, food and clothes stalls or repair operations.

But the entrepreneurs have lived on an ideological knife-edge, the first to be criticised during leftist campaigns and subject to numerous levies, legal and illegal, by officials who know no-one will defend them.

The People's Daily said the

average annual income of a Peking businessman in the food business was 15,361 yuan (\$4,150), seven times more than workers in state food outlets and nearly 10 times more than the average official.

Sunday's article was one of a series in the official press attacking private business for malpractices. Bars have been accused of engaging in prostitution and prominent actors and singers have also been accused of dodging taxes.

A Western diplomat said the Communist Party was trying to restore its prestige among people in major cities who knew of the military suppression of student-led protests on June 4 in which hundreds, perhaps thousands, died.

"This is a good issue for the party," he said. "Ordinary people resent the great discrepancy between their income and that of the private businessmen and over-pricing and selling of fake goods some of them engage in."

A second diplomat said another reason for the attack was

the government deficit, widening as Peking is forced to pay more and more subsidies to stop price rises that could arouse further public discontent.

Using International Monetary Fund methods of calculation, China's state budget deficit was targeted in March to reach 35 billion yuan (\$9.5 billion) this year, against 34 billion (\$9.2 billion) in 1988.

But Finance Minister Wang Bingqian indicated this month, without giving figures, that the target would be exceeded.

The Workers Daily said Sunday this year national subsidies for prices and state firms would reach 93,117 billion yuan (\$23.17 billion) or 33.6 per cent of state revenue. That is up from 76,278 billion (\$20.3 billion) or 29.5 per cent of state revenue in 1988.

Payment of personal tax is a new idea in China, which for three decades relied on taxes from state enterprises. Only in recent years have individuals been liable for taxes, and even then only those with high incomes.

Indonesia expects oil prices to stay strong

BANDUNG, Indonesia (R) — Indonesian Mines and Energy Minister Gijangjar Kartasudharta said he expects oil prices to remain strong through the third quarter of the year.

"There is nothing to worry about. You can see I stay calm because I am sure oil prices will be going up, and at present OPEC's crude oil price is up to \$17, so it is still stable," Gijangjar told Reuters after delivering a lecture at the Institute of Technology here.

Gijangjar said it had been predicted that oil prices would weaken this quarter but in fact they were steady. "I am not concerned about that," he said.

On Friday U.S. spot crude prices were quoted at \$19.84 a barrel. The key Brent blend was quoted late at \$17.65.

Gijangjar said a statement by United Arab Emirates President Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan last week would create a positive climate within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The UAE leader was quoted as saying his country would respect the group's decisions.

Industry sources say the UAE has been exceeding its OPEC oil output quota.

"I am optimistic that all OPEC states now feel that they are responsible to OPEC," Gijangjar said.

Gijangjar said he had heard that OPEC's present output was slightly above its 19.5 million barrels a day quota. He declined to elaborate.

"I think if OPEC wants to raise the quota to 20 million barrels in the fourth quarter, it is not a problem," he said.

Gijangjar said OPEC's expert committee for long-term strategic planning, of which Indonesia is a member, had concluded its first meeting. He said the group had produced a paper but there was still need for further talks.

Gijangjar said OPEC ministers planned to discuss in September quotas for the fourth quarter, long-term strategy, permanent quotas and a restructuring of the organisation.

OPEC is entering a critical phase in its bid to regain some of the grip it had on petroleum prices before the oil glut of the 1980s.

Iraq's emergence as an oil "superpower" after the Gulf war with Iran threatens to create new tensions over setting sales quotas. OPEC relies on quotas to try to control prices.

Uncertainty also prevails on whether demand for oil from the 13-nation group will be enough to mop up the excess output expected in coming months.

"Fundamentals are looking fragile," said Mike Rothman, senior energy analyst with New York firm Merrill Lynch Capital Markets.

A six-year gain in U.S. petrol demand, for instance, may be peaking as motorists react to stronger pump prices charged recently. And there are signs the U.S. economy is slowing.

But Steve Turner at London stockbrokers Smith New Court thinks OPEC can still go on producing at recent levels, of around 21 million barrels daily, without any big gain in stocks and

consequent risk to prices.

And Rothman, for his part, shared an opinion heard among Western industry executives that prices, while weakening, are unlikely to drop in the next month or so by more than \$2 or \$3 per barrel from a world average around \$17 now.

One reason for not expecting another crash to \$10 or lower is that more OPEC talks are fixed for Sept. 22 when ministers will try again to set quotas they can all agree on.

"Bearish" reports on excess output by some members which reject their present quotas may hit the market soon.

For instance, some oil company sources said Kuwait could be pumping as much as 1.8 million barrels daily despite a "gentleman's agreement" with other group members last month to try to cut to 1.35 million.

But the negative psychological impact of that kind of report would be offset by traders' caution as the new OPEC meeting in September looms, said a senior Western oil industry official.

September's meeting will seek a better way to assign quotas than the present politically tinged haggling, such as using a mix of criteria like past output, oil reserves and population.

The present system dates from early on in the glut of the 1980s after prices at up to \$40 had killed demand for OPEC oil. These high prices stamped the West into energy conservation and into a search for new oil fields such as those in the North Sea and Alaska which are outside OPEC control.

But a previous attempt to realign quotas on the basis of objective criteria failed in 1986. No minister would assent to any formula that might cut his percentage share.

OPEC has fudged solutions before and the industry bet is that it will have to do so again, and that it will more or less match supply with demand until its next meeting due in December.

Nobody wants another price crash, say OPEC leaders including Kuwait's Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah. "But it is hard to see how, if it just keeps stumbling from one ad hoc arrangement to another, it can ever arbitrate prices in a coherent way."

"Any one of the Middle East countries can give the others an ultimatum of the kind Kuwait has just issued," said Geoff Pym, energy economist with finance house UBS Phillips and Drew.

"Either allow me a higher market share or I will decide for myself what the correct level of my production should be."

The United Arab Emirates is doing much the same thing.

Now, Iraq is rebuilding capacity and may press for a bigger quota. Its oil minister, Isam Abdul Rahman Al Chalabi, says it will have the ability to export more than 5.5 million barrels daily in 1990, twice its present allowable volume.

Iraq, with output potential second only to Saudi Arabia, badly needs money to rebuild after the Gulf war. Also, says Humphrey Harrison who follows OPEC for stockbrokers Kitson and Aitken, "it has aspirations as a putative OPEC power broker."

Qatar considers setting up stock exchange

NICOSIA (R) — Qatar is planning to follow its Gulf Arab allies in setting up a stock exchange to benefit from the new confidence prevailing in the region.

The Qatari News Agency received in Cyprus said an Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) team arrived in Doha Saturday for week-long talks with officials on the "possibility of setting up a stock exchange in Qatar and linking it

with world markets."

It said the Abu Dhabi-based delegation would review the step with senior officials from the economy and finance and petroleum ministries and the Qatar Monetary Agency.

The step followed a similar move by its allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Oman and Bahrain — amid prevailing confidence after the August ceasefire in the eight-year-long Iraq-Iran war.

The GCC, an economic and political alliance, also groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Oman and Bahrain opened stock exchanges last May and June respectively and Kuwait started setting up a parallel exchange alongside its official market to encourage companies to go

public. The UAE has similar plans.

Saudi Arabia opened an exchange in 1987 but it was closed after three weeks because of what bankers termed religious objections from the religious community.

Economists say that after the October 1987 stock market crash there was a significant return of Gulf capital from abroad.

Bangladesh weaves success story on prospering garment industry

DHAKA (AP) — Sewing machines are serving as the impetus of a quiet revolution in Bangladesh, giving women an alternative to poverty, early marriage and frequent childbirth.

In this underfed, overpopulated, disaster-prone nation, the garment industry has established itself as a success story both economically and socially.

Nahar was 12 when her family arranged her marriage to a bicycle-rickshaw puller who she said beat her. By 16, she was a deserted wife with an infant son.

Traditionally, the only respectable options for such a poor village girl would have been to remarry or become a maid. The other possibilities in Bangladesh's limited female labour market were husking rice, pounding bricks and stones into gravel at construction sites, or prostitution.

Instead, a few months after Nahar's husband cast her out in 1985, a relative offered her a job in the fledgling garment industry.

Now 20, she works as a sewing machine operator at Y.K. Garments, on Elephant Road in the centre of Dhaka, and sends half her monthly salary of 900 takas (about \$28) home to her mother to take care of her five-year-old son. Her annual salary of \$336 is more than double the country's average per capita income of \$160.

"I feel I'm the happiest woman on earth. No one beats me anymore almost every night. I'm independent and I earn my own money," Nahar said, flashing a smile. Like many Bangladeshis, she does not use a last name.

Such independence is still a rare option for most Bangladeshi women, but it is a beginning — and it is growing.

About 500,000 women work in Bangladesh's clothing factories, making up 90 per cent of the industry's workforce. Government statistics show the number of export-oriented clothing factories swelled from four in 1979

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, July 23, 1989			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	573.5	579.3	
Pound Sterling	929.0	938.3	
Deutschmark	299.6	302.8	
Swiss franc	347.2	350.7	
French franc	64.4	65.3	
Japanese yen (for 100)	401.6	407.6	
Dutch guilder	265.8	268.5	
Swedish crown	89.1	89.0	
Italian lire (for 100)	41.5	41.9	
Belgian franc (for 10)	149.7	148.1	

Argentina take 3-2 victory over U.K.

EASTBOURNE, England (AP) — Martin Jaito defeated Chris Bailey in straight sets Saturday to lead Argentina to a 3-2 victory in its Davis Cup qualifying series with Britain, sending the Argentinians back into the world group next year.

Jaito, ranked 40th in the world, seemed far more comfortable on the grass than in his Thursday loss to Britain's Jeremy Bates as he scored a 7-6, 6-3, 7-5 victory over the 187th-ranked Bailey to give Argentina an instrumentable 3-1 lead in the series.

In the day's second match, Bates won when Argentine Alberto Mancini retired with a thigh muscle injury after trailing 5-0 in the first set.

Argentina, the first Latin American nation to participate in the Davis Cup in 1923, will rejoin the 16-nation world group in 1990 after two years in zonal competition.

Britain will remain in European zonal competition in 1990 for the third consecutive year.

Jaito threatened repeatedly to break Bailey's serve in the first set but to settle for a 7-4 victory in the tiebreaker.

He had five break points in the 11th game of the set but failed to convert any of them, and then needed four set points in the tiebreaker before wrapping up the set on a delicate backhand cross-court shot.

NEW YORK (AP) — Sandra Farmer-Patrick smashed her American record in the women's 400-metre intermediate hurdles and Carl Lewis extended his long jump winning streak to 61 Saturday at the inaugural New York track and field games.

While Farmer-Patrick and Lewis were producing their best performances of the year, sprint sensation Dawn Sowell had her biggest mishap of an otherwise glittering season, injuring her left hamstring.

Lewis also pulled up lame in the men's 400-metre relay, but shrugged off any injury, saying only that his calves cramped because he was dehydrated.

"I was making sure that I didn't get injured," Lewis said after hobbling off the Columbia University track only a few steps after beginning the anchor leg for the Santa Monica track club.

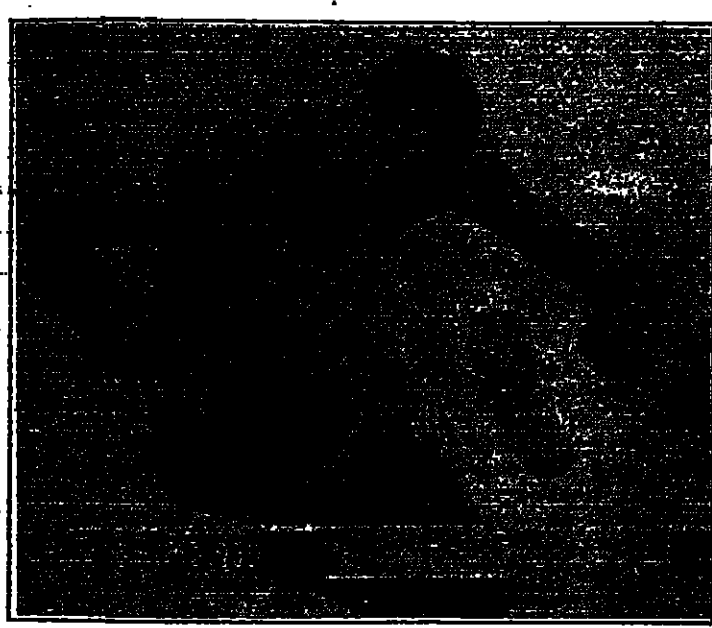
Farmer-Patrick, a former Jamaican who became a United States citizen last year, was timed in 53.75 sec June 17 at Houston in the national championship.

In winning with the fastest time in the world this year and the sixth-fastest in history, she easily beat Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the double Olympic champion. The world record is 52.94, by Marina Stepanova of the Soviet Union.

Joyner-Kersey, the 1988 Olympic gold medalist in the long jump and heptathlon who has concentrated on the 400 hurdles this year, was even with Farmer-Patrick coming off the seventh of the 10 hurdles.

But Farmer-Patrick, undefeated this year, went ahead to stay coming off the final curve and pulled away to a 15-metre victory.

Joyner-Kersey faded to third behind Schowanda Williams. "I was hoping to do 54 flat,"



Over another hurdle: but Colin Jackson could only finish third in the hurdles in New York.

Farmer-Patrick sets new U.S. record

Farmer-Patrick said, "I ran faster because... Jackie was in the race and it was the first time I faced her. I wanted to beat her."

Last year, Farmer-Patrick was disqualified in the U.S. Olympic trials for running out of her lane. Lewis, unbeaten in the long jump since the 1981 national indoor championships and a two-time Olympic gold medalist, equalled his best jump of the year in winning at 28 feet, 1.4 inch.

Michael Conley, the 1985 World Cup champion and two-time National Collegiate Athletic Association champion was a disappointing fifth in 25.4, 3.4.

Steve Lewis, the Olympic 400-metre gold medalist, cruised to victory over bronze medalist Danny Everett in 44.47. Everett finished second in 44.58 and Antonio Pettigrew, who has the fastest time in the world this year at 44.27, was

sixth in 45.54.

Jamaican Winthrop Graham, the 1987 Pan American Games champion, overtook 1988 Olympic gold medalist Andre Phillips after the final hurdle and won the men's 400-metre hurdles in 48.20, the fastest time in the world this year.

Phillips was second and Britain's Colin Jackson disappointing third in 48.57.

Sweden's Patrik Sjöberg, the 1987 world champion, won the men's high jump at 7-9, 1.4, then missed three times at a world record 8-0. Sjöberg beat Javier Sotomayor of Cuba, the world record-holder, who has cleared 7-11 indoors and outdoors, finished second at 7-8.

Butch Reynolds, the world record-holder in the men's 400 metres, anchored a team that won the men's 1,600-metre relay in 3:00.19, the fastest in the world.

Lemond wins Tour de France in suspenseful, closest finish

PARIS (AP) — Greg Lemond won the Tour de France Sunday, edging Laurent Fignon of France by eight seconds in the closest and most suspenseful running ever of the cycling classic.

Lemond won the final stage, a 24.5-kilometre race against the clock from Versailles to Paris, in 26 minutes, 57 seconds.

When Fignon, grimacing and gritting his teeth, crossed the finish line shortly afterwards in a time 58 seconds slower, the American yelped and thrust his fist in the air in a gesture of victory.

Fignon had started the day with a 50-second advantage over Lemond, which most cycling experts thought was insurmountable.

Nashwan wins the Maktoums a clean sweep

ASCOT, England (R) — Odds-on favourite Nashwan maintained his unbeaten record and completed a unique quartet of victories with a narrow triumph in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond stakes horse race Saturday.

Nashwan, at 9-2 on the shortest priced winning favourite in the history of the great race, was made to fight all the way by the Guy Harwood-trained Cacoethes before winning by a neck with the rest seven lengths away.

The win makes the Dick Heaps-trained colt ridden by Willie Carson the first horse to win the 2,000 guineas, Epsom Derby, Eclipse Stakes and King George VI in the same season.

It also means Nashwan's owner, Hamdan Al Maktoum, and family have now won every group one race in England and Ireland except the English Oaks and Coronation Cup.

Jockey Michael Roberts sent 50-1 outsider top class into the lead on the turn for home but Carson coaxed Nashwan into a challenging position and they edged ahead before the furlong marker.

Then Greville Starkey pushed 6-1 shot Cacoethes into contention and looked like being successful until Nashwan fought back with tremendous courage to snatch the prize in the final strides. Top class finished third.

It was Hern's fifth success in the race and Carson's third.

Lemond's astonishing performance in the finishing time trial climaxed a remarkable comeback from accidents and injuries that left many cycling specialists doubtful he could ever recapture his winning form.

Riding in the Tour de France for the first time since his victory year in 1986, Lemond said at the beginning that he was just hoping to make a respectable showing.

A shooting accident in April 1987 made Lemond miss that year's race. Shin surgery and an emergency appendectomy forced him to miss the following year.

He was back this year, but unsure if his body could handle the 23-day event, especially in the mountains, where he faltered in the Tour of Italy.

But he surprised many by taking the lead July 6, winning the time trial to Rennes.

He gave up the yellow jersey five days later in the Pyrenees but reclaimed it.

Fignon took over the lead again at l'Alpe-D'huez July 19 later and added to his margin the next day. Both times he burst away from Lemond up the final climb, coming in third in the 17th stage and winning the 18th stage.

Final overall standings had Pedro Delgado of Spain, last year's winner, in third place behind Lemond and Fignon, followed by Gert-Jan Theunisse of the Netherlands in fourth place. "I always thought it was possible," a jubilant Lemond said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

MONTREAL SNEAKS PAST CINCINNATI 6-5 IN NINTH:

Rex Hudler and Damaso Garcia homered in the ninth inning to rally five runs and lead the Montreal Expos past the Cincinnati Reds 6-5 in a last-inning crusade. With a 5-1 lead, Cincinnati pitcher John Franco allowed a three-run homer to Hudler. Then he allowed a two-run homer to Garcia that sent the Reds to their seventh straight loss. "I just can't believe it, usually with a four-run lead it's like money in the bank," said Franco, 2-3. (AP)

N. ZEALAND BEAT HUNGARY: New Zealand completed a 4-1 victory over Hungary in Auckland Sunday to clinch a place in the world group of the Davis Cup tennis competition. New Zealand won both the reverse singles after holding a 2-1 lead following Saturday's doubles. (AP)

OMAN'S CHAMPIONS BEAT PAKISTANIS 2-0: Oman's Fanja beat Pakistan's Punjab 2-0 in the opening match of the 9th Asian Club championship group III qualifying round in Muscat Saturday. Both goals were scored by Hilal Hamid Hamoud, the first in 21st minute and the second in the 57th. Fanja's players were expected to achieve better results, but lack of coordination and inspiration deprived them from scoring more goals. The Omanis had the ball possession all through the game but were kept at bay by Punjab backs Muhammad Riaz and Tahir Qureshi. Hamoud, a former international striker, scored his first goal following a lob from Mohammed Said, nicknamed Sabah. He scored the second after a pass from the midfield from Abdullah Jumah. Four teams — Fanja of Oman, Punjab of Pakistan, Katmandu of Nepal, and India's Salgaocar of Goa — are playing in this Championship which ends July 29. (AP)

IRAN 3, CHINA 2: Iran edged China 3-2 in Tehran Saturday in the second leg of a World Cup soccer elimination match, but failed on goal average to secure a place in the final round in Italy next year. Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. No other World Cup matches were played. Iran needed a decisive win at Tehran's Azadi Stadium to overcome its 2-0 defeat by China July 16 to qualify. China now faces a wobbly Thai team at home and is certain to go through to the finals from Asian zone group 5. Iran beat Thailand 3-0 May 30. (AP)

KNOL STOPS LONGO AT LEAST FOR DAY: Olympic champion Monique Knol of the Netherlands stopped Jeannie Longo's winning streak at five as she won the 10th stage of the women's Tour De France at L'Isle d'Abeau Saturday. However, Longo holds an insurmountable lead with one stage left. She was 16th for the day but in the same time as Knol and has an 8-minute, 44-second margin over Maria Canins of Italy. Knol, who won the first two stages then fell behind, outstripped the rest of the pack in a group finish, running the same route as the men but two hours earlier. She had a time of 3 hours, 16 minutes, 5 seconds over the 127 kilometers (79 miles) from Aix-Les-Bains to L'Isle d'Abeau. Longo, who had won the five previous stages with Canins second in four of them, should win her third straight women's title Sunday barring mishap. (AP)

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 7 6 3		♠ K 10 5	
♥ K Q J 9 8 7		♥ 10 5 4 3	
♦ 3		♦ 7	
♣ A 6 2		♣ J 9 8 7 4	
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ Q 9 8 4		♠ A J 2	
♥ 6 2		♥ K Q J 10 8 6 4	
♦ 9 5 2		♦ A	
♣ K Q 10 3		♣ 5	

The bidding:
South West North East
2♦ Pass 2♥ Pass
3♦ Pass 3♥ Pass
4NT Pass 4♥ Pass
6♦ Pass 6♥ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠.

As the years go by, we like to dwell increasingly on some of our favorite moments of bygone days. This hand, from a rubber bridge game at the Golden Gate Bridge Club in San Francisco some 20 years ago, still brings a smile. Your job is to decide which trick declarer lost while fulfilling his slam, and when he lost it.

We really can't fault the bidding. We were taught at our mother's

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

Becker wins out over Agassi

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — Boris Becker beat Andre Agassi in a one-set shootout and then teamed with Eric Jelen to hand Ken Flach and Robert Seguso their first loss in Davis Cup doubles Saturday, as West Germany took a 2-1 lead over the United States in their best-of-five semifinal.

Playing before a highly vocal capacity crowd at Olympic Hall, Becker downed Agassi in the fifth and deciding set of a match that had been halted by a midnight curfew Friday.

Becker had rallied from two sets down to even the contest before it was suspended. When play resumed 14 hours later, the West German ace broke Agassi three times to complete a 6-7, 6-7, 6-3, 6-4 victory.

Eighty minutes later, Becker was on the court again with Jelen. After losing the first set, the West Germans rallied to beat Flach and Seguso 3-6, 7-6, 6-4, 7-6.

It was the first Davis Cup defeat for the U.S. pair after 10 wins.

Both men played brilliantly, slugging winners from all over the court.

"I never dreamed Andre could play so good," said Becker, who improved his Davis Cup singles record to 25-2. "Only a couple of points decided the match. It was that close."

It was Agassi's first loss in eight Davis Cup matches. He is now 0-5 in matches that have lasted five sets.

"I'm disappointed because I had my chances," Agassi said. "But I don't feel I lost it. I feel he beat me."

Agassi, who is four places below No. 2 Becker in the world rankings, said it was the first time he ever jumped over the net and hugged his opponent after a match.

"You pour your heart and guts into a match like that, and afterward you feel great emotions," Agassi said.

"Boris and I got along great. There's nobody I respect more." The United States had taken a 1-0 lead over the defending champions Friday when Gilbert rallied

to beat Steeb 6-2, 2-6, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

"I would have been a nightmare if I had lost, but fortunately I didn't," Gilbert said.

Gilbert was filling in for John McEnroe who withdrew last week because of a shoulder injury. Gilbert was named as McEnroe's replacement after Michael Chang and Tim Mayotte turned down the offer.

The turning point in the error-filled match was the traditional 10-minute Davis Cup intermission between the third and fourth sets.

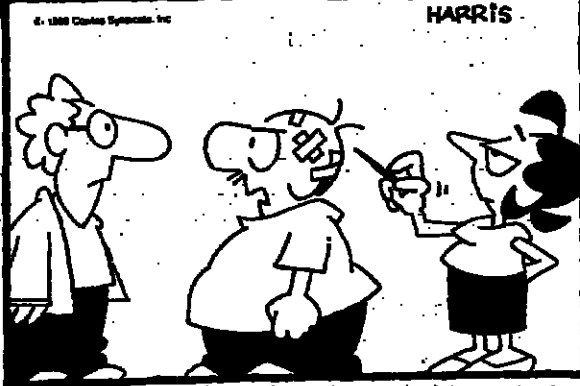
Steeb had the momentum going into the break, having just won the third set after saving four break points. But the rest seemed to rejuvenate Gilbert, who came out of the locker room and won the final two sets despite erratic groundstrokes and a weak second serve.

"I was playing like a wimp," Gilbert said. "I had gotten caught up in all the hype. During the break, I just relaxed."

"He really wasn't beating me. I was beating myself."

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"What bugs me is the way she's always trying to deflate my ego!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

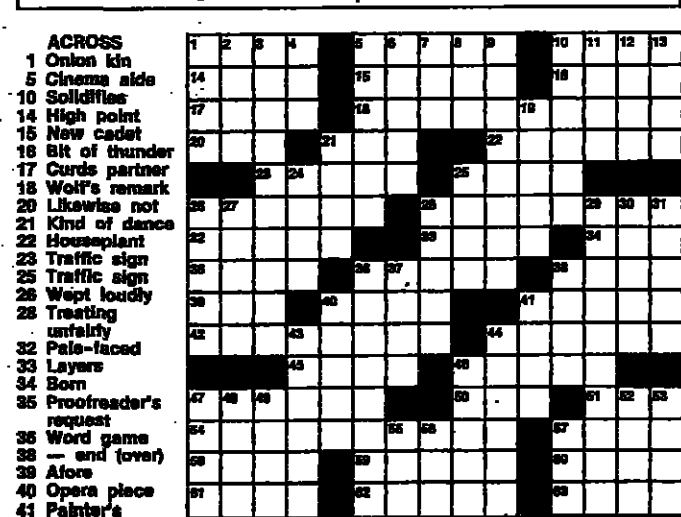
SCERS
LYGUL
TALNE
NERBAN

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: FRUIT TOKEN CACTUS LIZARD
Answer: What's missing from most hot disputes?—COLD FACTS

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts

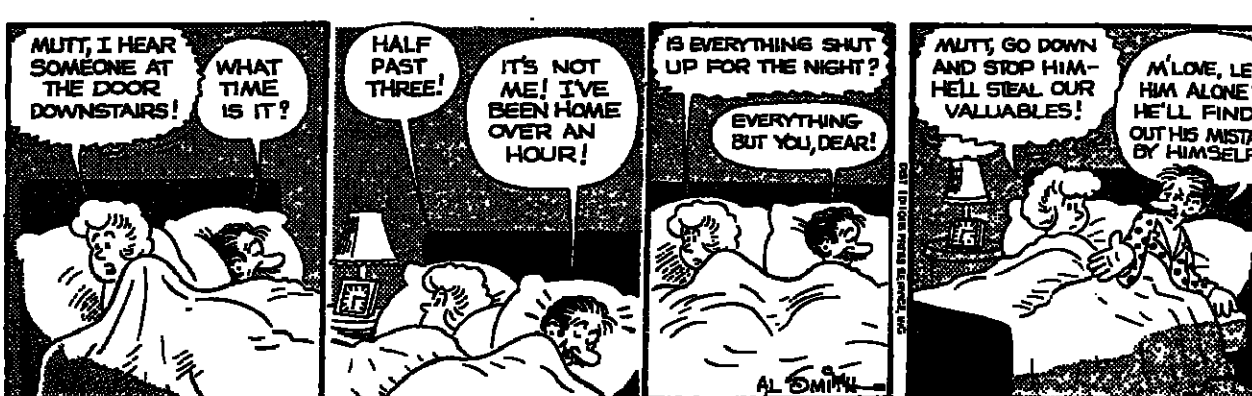


- ACROSS
- 1 Onion skin
 - 5 Cinema aside
 - 10 Solidities
 - 14 High point
 - 15 New cadet
 - 16 Bit of thunder
 - 17 Cards partner
 - 18 Wolf's remark
 - 20 Likewise not
 - 21 Kind of dance
 - 22 Houseplant
 - 23 Traffic sign
 - 24 West loudly
 - 25 Treating
 - 26 Pale-faced
 - 27 Layers
 - 28 Born
 - 29 Proofreader's request
 - 30 Word game
 - 31 — and (over)
 - 32 Alone
 - 33 Opera place
 - 34 Painter's pigment
 - 35 Sineas event
 - 36 Corridor
 - 37 Cry of dread
 - 38 Alma —
 - 39 Asian nation
 - 40 Printing units
 - 41 Not up to par
 - 42 Alternates
 - 43 Adolescent
 - 44 Santa tongue
 - 45 Sort of
 - 46 Friendly?
 - 47 Author Zola
 - 48 Tilt section
 - 49 Fresh talk
 - 50 Robin
 - 51 Track posting
 - 52 DOWN
 - 1 Tennis type
 - 2 Sound return
 - 3 Grinding machine
 - 4 Essential
 - 5 Defiant
 - 6 Swung around
 - 7 Mideast lang.
 - 8 Flow away
 - 9 Lab chemical
 - 10 Make a bust
 - 11 German river
 - 12 Prohibited
 - 13 Fissure
 - 14 Tap-dances
 - 15 Adolescent
 - 16 — a Song
 - 17 Ladies
 - 18 Less noble
 - 19 National
 - 20 Lawyer
 - 21 Sandbank
 - 22 Enclosed by seats
 - 23 Approaches
 - 24 DNA elements
 - 25 Hard rocks
 - 26 Hawaiian port
 - 27 Land area
 - 28 Feels sore
 - 29 Tailing sector
 - 30 They don't
 - 31 Gentlemen
 - 32 Part, N.J.
 - 33 Heat treat.
 - 34 Tabule —
 - 35 Luxu music-makers
 - 36 Escaped
 - 37 Hoo-ha
 - 38 Pile cleaner?
 - 39 — Bravo?
 - 40 Chaotic place

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp





Police break up an anti-government demonstration in Bombay

Indian opposition members to resign from parliament

NEW DELHI (R) — India's opposition members of parliament (MPs) agreed Sunday to resign from the lower house to highlight accusations of corruption against Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said 106 members of the lower house will resign Monday in what is regarded as the last session of parliament before general elections Gandhi must call by the end of the year.

The demand Gandhi resign over a government auditor's report alleging irregularities in the purchase of \$1.3 billion worth of field guns from

Sweden's Bofors company.

The opposition members said Gandhi was obliged to resign because he had misled parliament over the role of middlemen in securing the Bofors contract.

A spokesman for one party, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), said a report by the auditor and comptroller general clearly indicated that agents had taken kickbacks for the contract.

Gandhi laid himself open to charges of misleading parliament by saying no middlemen were involved in the Bofors contract, said AGP MP Dinesh Goswami.

The decision to quit will mean the opposition's absence when the lower house discusses the report Monday.

Goswami said there would be little use in the opposition attending the session since even a no-confidence motion it had earlier planned to bring against Gandhi would be easily defeated by the ruling party's clear majority in parliament.

Political analysts said the decision to resign was part of the opposition's strategy to highlight corruption in the government and make it an election issue.

Crowded cells, beatings for victims of Chinese purges

PEKING (R) — Chinese caught in waves of arrests after the army's suppression of the democracy movement are emerging from prisons with descriptions of overcrowded cells, beatings and brutal interrogations.

At least 5,000 people have been arrested in Peking alone, including many dissidents attacked by name by Mayor Chen Xitong in a speech last month, foreign diplomats said Sunday quoting informed Chinese sources.

Parts of the Chinese capital have been under martial law since May 20. Arrests are often made at night by plainclothes police in unmarked cars. Suspects disappear without their families being informed.

"You don't know where you are taken. You don't know where you are," said one former prisoner.

Conditions vary. One well-known intellectual, who was detained for several days, said he was treated humanely and had no complaints.

Several others described small, unbearably hot cells packed so tight with 40 to 60 people that there is no room to lie down. The toilet is a bucket.

Nobody who has been in prison and later released wants to be identified in reports by journalists. Most do not want to talk at all.

Interrogations are sometimes preceded by a beating, according to two accounts. A student was hit by electric prods, a writer by rifle butts.

Martial law troops and police alike use violence — the worst beatings apparently administered to workers and unemployed youths who fought the army with petrol bombs and rocks when armoured troops crashed through Peking to Tiananmen Square on the night of June 3 and early hours of June 4.

It appears that many Chinese arrested have been released and then some detained for a second or third time.

In the first few weeks after the military operation, the Communist authorities widely publicised the mass arrests of suspects, showing bedraggled individuals interrogated at gun-point and signing confessions.

Three people were executed in Shanghai, seven in Peking and two in Sichuan — all accused of rioting, sabotage or resisting the army.

Their executions, by a shot to a back of the head, drew widespread international condemnation. China rejected this as "interference in its internal affairs."

Recently, in what diplomats see as an attempt to protect its image abroad, China's state-controlled national newspapers have stopped reporting mass arrests. Television no longer has harrowing pictures of interrogations.

"These are long-tried tactics," one foreign diplomat said. "You execute a few, imprison a lot and terrorise the majority and then release them so they will not dare to dissent again."

Senior leader Deng Xiaoping, who as chairman of the Communist Party's Military Commission gave the go-ahead for the crackdown, has described the democracy movement as a "counter-revolutionary rebellion" which threatened the party's survival.

Officials decline to say who or how many people have been arrested across the country. Diplomats estimate that thousands have been detained outside Peking, especially in major cities where workers and students joined in mass anti-government protests in May.

Hungarian Communists snubbed

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary's strongest opposition group has outpolled the ruling Communist Party in three out of four weekend by-elections — the first free vote since 1947.

The by-elections were a foretaste of a nationwide multi-party poll — unprecedented since the party suppressed its rivals 40 years ago — which must take place by mid-1990.

"It's obvious the Communist Party will find it hard to raise voters," one Western diplomat commented.

In Godollo, 30 kilometres northeast of Budapest, an alliance headed by the Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF) won the opposition's first seat in parliament by polling 69.2 per cent against only 29.9 per cent for the Communist Party candidate.

Lutheran priest Gabor Roszik, 35, was joint candidate of the HDF and two radical Western-oriented groups: the Alliance of Free Democrats and the independent youth group Fidesz.

In southern Szeged the HDF candidate polled 59.4 per cent against 39 per cent for that of the officially-backed People's Patriotic Front (PPF), and in Kecskemet the HDF took 47.3 per cent against only 22.2 per cent for a Communist candidate.

But as elections in Hungary are deemed valid only if more than half the electorate turns out, these two elections will be rerun in two weeks time. Szeged and Kecskemet had turnouts of only 45 and 44 per cent respectively.

In the fourth constituency —

provincial Kiskunfelegyhaza — the Communists topped the poll with 44.9 per cent.

But as their candidate failed to win a majority of votes cast, there will be a run-off on Aug. 5 against a PPF candidate who took 29.6 per cent.

The HDF candidate polled 24.6 per cent.

Founded less than two years ago and now with 17,000 members, the HDF trades largely on nationalist feeling and concern for ethnic Hungarians in Romania.

Roszik, the successful candidate for the HDF-led alliance in Godollo, becomes Hungary's first opposition MP for more than four decades.

"It's wonderful feeling," he said in an interview on Hungarian television.

Opposition members and diplomats were surprised by the low turnout at the first opportunity to vote against the Communist Party for 42 years.

Although there were queues at some polling stations in the early morning, the trend faded through the day.

Szeged officials blamed hot days and harvesting. But one diplomat said: "I think it's simply voter apathy."

Some western observers believe Hungarians are less interested in the workings of democracy than in their difficult financial situation as the government imposes austerity measures to master Eastern Europe's highest per capita debt.

On arrival at Colombo general hospital.

On Friday, Agriculture Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told parliament that censoring the press, both local and foreign, was proving to be counter-productive.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, who announced the censorship July 6, said he agreed and promised to lift it soon, at least for foreign media.

Demand renewed

According to a letter released by the government on Saturday, President Ransinghe Premadasa would consider a 1987 agreement with India to be against Sri Lanka's interests if it is used to justify the presence of Indian soldiers on the island.

"If it is your view that the agreement should be construed as creating an obligation for the Indian army to remain in Sri Lanka territory without the concurrence and against the express wishes of the Sri Lankan government, I... will have no option but to treat the agreement as being inimical to Sri Lanka's sovereignty," Premadasa said in a letter to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Premadasa has asked India to withdraw its 40,000 soldiers in Sri Lanka by the end of the month, but New Delhi has said a withdrawal could lead to more violence. Relations between the two countries have soured because of the stalemate.

Sri Lankan censor chief shot dead

COLOMBO (AP) — Sri Lanka's chief government censor was shot and killed Sunday, police and witnesses said.

Themis Guruge, who also headed the government-owned radio station, was taking a walk near his home at Polhengoda, seven kilometres southeast of the capital of Colombo when he was shot by two unidentified gunmen riding in a white car, police said on condition they not be identified.

Guruge, 60, a well-known broadcaster, was named head of the government's four-person censorship committee two weeks ago. Censorship on local and foreign press reports was imposed amid escalating ethnic violence and a growing dispute between

India and Sri Lanka over the presence of a 40,000-man Indian peacekeeping force.

Guruge, a Sinhalese, was appointed chairman of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation two months ago. Radio employees have received death threats from Sinhalese extremists in the past.

Police gave no indication who may have been responsible for the killing. No one immediately claimed responsibility.

Witnesses, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Guruge's family rushed him to a hospital and their car was fired on by police at a checkpoint. One relative was slightly wounded, the witnesses said.

Guruge was pronounced dead

the island.

They called for tougher international sanctions against South Africa, demanding equal votes there for all.

They sharply attacked Israel, Taiwan and Chile for military cooperation with South Africa.

The ministers urged increased international aid to ensure that all Namibian exiles returned for the polls and called for greater financial and material aid to the six southern African frontline states.

They demanded the immediate and unconditional release of jailed South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners, and the unbanning by Pretoria of black nationalist movements.

OAU ministers blast Pretoria, get tough on Namibia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — African foreign ministers have rejected South Africa's latest offers to reform apartheid and urged tougher international sanctions to end white domination.

They also called on the United Nations to boost its peacekeeping force in Namibia and to act to make sure that South Africa could not thwart independence elections there.

The ministers' resolutions, drawn up after week-long talks Saturday, are virtually certain to be approved by heads of state at the three-day annual summit of the 49-nation Organisation of African Unity (OAU) opening Monday.

The resolutions urge the immediate disbanding of Koevoet

(crowbar), the counter-insurgency unit which Pretoria used in its 23-year bush war against the Namibian nationalist South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

Namibian authorities say Koevoet has been broken up. But U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Friday cited the presence of Koevoet members among South African security forces as the main problem in the run-up to November elections.

The ministers urged the U.N., overseeing Namibia's transition to independence next year, to boost its 4,650-strong force in Namibia to the 7,500 originally envisaged. The U.N. Security Council cut the numbers to save money.

South Africa, eager to break out of its international isolation, has conceded Namibia's freedom in return for a withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

Of South Africa's crackdown on protest, the ministers said their council "strongly condemns the terrorism practised by South Africa under its state of emergency and the hanging verdicts passed by the courts on anti-apartheid opponents."

Referring to ruling National Party leader F.W. de Klerk's pledges to reform apartheid, they said: "We reject categorically the so-called five-point reform plan of the National Party which is aimed at entrenching white domination."

End seen to 3-year-old Surinamese rebellion

AMSTERDAM (AP) — A three-year-old guerrilla war in Suriname has ended with a truce enlisting the insurgents in the nation's police force, according to Dutch newspapers.

But the accord has come under heavy criticism from the Surinamese army, which ruled the former Dutch colony until 1987, the reports said.

Friday's truce between the government and the jungle commando marked the end of an intermittent confrontation in eastern Suriname that is thought to have cost several hundred lives.

The accord, signed in Kourou in neighbouring French Guiana, stipulated that the rebels will not be disarmed, but would withdraw to three specified locations, according to the Dutch reports.

The group will later be enlisted

in a special police unit, the reports said.

But in a statement released after the signing ceremony, the Surinamese army demanded the rebel group surrender its weapons and said its police role would be "unconstitutional," the reports said.

The army's ultimate approval of the truce is regarded as crucial to its credibility.

The rebels were led by Ronnie Brunswijk, a former bodyguard to the nation's military ruler, Desi Bouterse, who came to power in a 1980 military coup.

Bouterse was replaced by a civilian government in 1987 elections, but he and the Dutch-trained army still has considerable influence in Surinamese politics under a state of emergency in large parts of the nation.

Brunswijk had agreed to a ceasefire in late 1987, but skirmishing continued until last month.

Brunswijk was fired as Bouterse's bodyguard in 1986. Details of their falling out are unknown, but the war is seen as a personal feud between Brunswijk and Bouterse.

After he was fired, Brunswijk is said to have taken arms and ammunition with him. He robbed banks and gave the money to his people, gaining the reputation of a Robin Hood. But in June, 1986, Bouterse's army attacked Brunswijk's village, and the jungle commando was born.

The truce also contained provisions for an end to the state of emergency and for aid to eastern Suriname.

The Brunswijk group was nev-

er more than about 200 strong, but controlled large areas of Suriname.

By late 1986, the conflict had flared into a major war, with Brunswijk troops near Suriname's capital, Paramaribo.

About 7,000 war refugees, almost all bush negroes, fled the fighting to French Guiana. Most of the rebels, including Brunswijk, also are bush negroes, descendants of West African slaves who form an ethnic minority of about 65,000. The arm has burned bush negro villages, and in 1986 massacred at least 35 bush negroes, suspecting them of aiding rebels.

There has been speculation that Brunswijk was backed financially by Bouterse's opponents among the 300,000 Surinamese living in the Netherlands.

COLUMN

13 days with a shirt

MANILA (R) — A lone swimmer who was trapped for 13 days in an underground tunnel following a mudslide said Saturday he survived by eating his shirt. The Philippine news agency said Roberto Lingao-Lingao was rescued Friday after being trapped 455 metres underground at a mine near the central Philippine city of Cebu. The news agency, which interviewed him in hospital, quoted him as saying that there was water but no food in the tunnel. He said he ate his shirt and moved as little as possible to conserve his energy until rescuers arrived.

Prince of 'whales'

BAIE-STE-CATHERINE, Quebec (AP) — Britain's Prince Andrew has become the prince of whales. Britain's Duke of York and his duchess, Sarah Ferguson, adopted an endangered beluga and named it White Mischief. The couple took the action Monday while on a whale-watching tour from this port on the St. Lawrence River about 200 kilometres northeast of Quebec City. The newest and largest addition to the royal family was not seen, however, and in fact has not been seen since 1987. The royal couple, on a 13-day Canadian tour, join 44 other people who have paid \$3,000 each to adopt belugas — white whales about 3.50 metres long. Prince Andrew's whale, however, was a gift from the Charlevoix Tourist Association. The adopt-a-beluga programme helps fund studies of the 500 whales who live in this part of the polluted St. Lawrence River.

Of Sinatra and his sauce

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — It worked for actor Paul Newman, so Frank Sinatra has decided to market his own spaghetti sauce. Sinatra is helping form a company to market Italian-style food products, said his spokeswoman, Susan Reynolds. The company is called Armani — Sinatra spelled backwards — and the first line of sauce is due out early in 1990, she said. "Over the years I've received some nice compliments about my cooking," Sinatra said in a statement. "A few years ago, we made some pasta sauce for our friends during the holiday season and it's become a tradition." William J. Armanino, president of the San Francisco-based Armanino Foods Distribution Inc., will act as chairman of the company, Reynolds said.

Better second time around

RUSSELLVILLE, Arkansas (AP) — Wanda and Henry Brannan lived in marital bliss for 17 years, until they discovered they were not really married. Mrs. Brannan found out a week ago when she heard a news report about a May 1 Arkansas supreme court ruling that declared a marriage invalid because a divorce decree from a previous marriage was not filed until after the second ceremony. "My husband at first thought it was funny, but when I told him he was sleeping on the couch because we weren't married, he started to pay attention to me," she said. Mrs. Brannan was divorced March 2, 1972, and married Henry Brannan March 12. Her divorce papers were not filed until March 31. She worried that the ruling could endanger the legal rights of her 14-year-old daughter. So the Brannans wed again, on the courthouse steps last week, with the bride wearing white tulle. "I hope it's better the second time around," she said.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	18	24	75 °F Clear
ATHENS	20	28	81 °F Clear
BAHIA	20	28	81 °F Clear
BANGKOK	25	32	81 °F Clear
Buenos Aires	08	12	53 °F Cloudy
CAIRO	23	30	80 °F Clear
CHICAGO	17	23	74 °F Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	17	23	77 °F Clear
FRANKFURT	20	28	81 °F Clear
GENEVA	20	28	81 °F Clear
HONG KONG	27	31	80 °F Cloudy
ISTANBUL	17	23	74 °F Clear
LONDON	20	28	81 °F Clear
LOS ANGELES	22	30	80 °F Clear
MADRID	18	24	80 °F Clear
MECCA	20	28	81 °F Clear
MONTREAL	18	24	80 °F Clear
MOSCOW	13	25	77 °F Clear
NEW DELHI	27	31	80 °F Cloudy
NEW YORK	20	28	81 °F Clear
PARIS	22	30	80 °F Clear
ROME	17	23	80 °F Clear
SIDNEY	22	30	80 °F Clear
TOKYO	24	32	81 °F Clear
VIENNA	24	32	81 °F Clear

Questions remain unanswered in fiery DC-10 crash

By David Briscoe
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Investigators are trying to find out why an airliner designed to fly without one of its engines could not, and why an engine designed to contain its own failure apparently did not.

Government engineers and scientists poring over the wreckage and records of Flight 232 have not yet found the cause of the United Airlines DC-10 crash Wednesday that killed more than a third of the 296 people aboard.

What they knew by the weekend was that an explosive engine failure occurred while the three-engine airliner was en route from Denver to Chicago, that portions of the tail section were damaged in the explosion, and that the hydraulic flight control systems had lost all its fluid by the time the plane crash-landed at the Sioux City airport.

The government National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) was focusing in the first days of what will be a months-long investigation on the 15-year-old airliner's engine-carrying tail section, the disabled hydraulic systems, the plane's maintenance records and the actions of its cockpit crew.

In the long run, they also will examine issues related to air-

craft design, crew training, passenger survival after impact, performance of the air traffic control system and federal oversight of maintenance, along with emergency preparations and performance on the ground.

Jim Burnett, the safety board member supervising the investigation, said the engine explosion conceivably could have caused the failure of three independent hydraulic systems which come closest together in the plane's tail. But investigators were still searching for parts of the engine. Some material from the tail area was found up to 95 kilometres from the crash site.

If the engine explosion damaged the hydraulics, the key unanswered question remains: what caused the jet engine to explode?

Among possibilities being considered:

- A maintenance problem. Repair work was done in the area of the engine a day before the flight.
- Material from the engine itself or from another part of the plane might have flown into the interior, aviation experts say.
- Birds have also disabled engines in the past, although engines must pass a test in which a chicken is thrown into the intake.



Sioux police stand guard over the wreckage of the United Airlines DC-10 which crashed attempting to make an emergency landing

Federal regulations require that engines be built to withstand any probable occurrence. But they need not be designed to survive a scenario that has less than a one-in-a-billion chance of occurring.

They also are supposed to be designed so an "uncontained

engine failure" will blow material out through the rear and away from the plane. The engine housing is supposed to be strong enough to prevent dislodged engine parts such as a fan blade from blowing into the passenger section.

But aircraft are built to be as

tight as possible, and an explosive failure could have the force of a powerful bomb, in which case no housing would be strong enough to contain it.

Airliners also must be able not only to fly but to climb with one engine out. Single engine failures in flight are not un-

usual, and if no other damage is done to the plane, a pilot usually has the option of completing his flight.

Flight 232 Pilot Al C. Haynes told investigators that the only means he had of controlling flight was to use engine thrust. Applying power to both engines would make the plane go up, decreasing power would cause it to descend.

Applying small amounts of power to one wing engine could turn the plane. Haynes told ground control he could only turn to the right, indicating control surfaces such as the rudder might have been stuck in a position that prevented left turns, said Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) spokesman Fred Farrar.

The General Electric CF6-60 engines, used exclusively on DC-10s since both the planes and engines went into service in the early 1970s, pass all FAA requirements.

The search for victims of the crash has ended with the death toll tentatively set at 110. Unidentified, meanwhile, announced it is visually inspecting all engines in its DC-10 fleet.

"We feel comfortable enough that ... the search has been terminated for victims," said Gary Brown, spokesman for the Woodbury county emergency services.

While officials were confi-

dent Saturday that all of the bodies had been recovered, there still was disagreement on how many were killed. United said it was 110 and the NTSB said it was 111.

But a NTSB spokesman, Ted Lopatkiewicz, said at a news briefing late Saturday the agency was "deferring to United. That doesn't mean we agree. United is the authority on this."

A list compiled by the Associated Press of names supplied by United Airlines and family, friends and employers of the victims had put the toll of dead and missing at 111. But two people listed with the same last name and slightly different first names were determined to be the same person.

In Chariton, Iowa, meanwhile, an Amtrak train carrying survivors of the United flight struck and killed a six-year-old boy as the youngster tried to free his bicycle that was stuck on the tracks.

Jason Lee Howie was struck by Amtrak's eastbound California Zephyr after the train had picked up several crash survivors at Omaha, Nebraska, said Amtrak spokesman Art Lloyd, who added that he did not know how many survivors were on board.

In Sioux City, the wreckage of the wide-body jet remained sprawled over the airport as NTSB crews sifted wreckage.

